IMES

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Parents told to peel 'pesticide' fru

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS were warned last night by the Government to peel fruit before feeding their children with it after dangerous levels of an organophospate pesticide linked to Gulf War Syndrome were found in imported and home-grown apples

on sale in shops. The worst contaminated apples contained up to six times the amount of the pesticide that can be consumed at one sitting without any risk to health, the Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday. Or-ganophosphate chemicals of the same type have also been blamed for illnesses suffered by farmers after dipping sheep. The chemicals

work by attacking the nervous

Dr Jeremy Meners, the Government's Deputy Chief Medical Of-ficer, said: "Washing fruit before consumption is always a sensible precaution to ensure it is clean. Peeling fruit is a matter of consumer choice, but is a sensible additional precaution when preparing fruit

for small children". Calling for international action to tighten controls on pesticides. Angela Browning, the Food Minister, said: "There is no need for consumers to be alarmed. I am still eating apples with confidence. though I try to remember to wash them." She added: "The results do show a need for international

in hand. We will be discussing with domestic producers the scope for reducing pesticide levels and commissioning research."

Scientists say that eating two apples weighing a quarter of a pound each, if both happened to contain the highest pesticide traces found in the survey, could cause stomach pains, particularly in

They said, however, that the dietary benefits of eating apples and other fruit and vegetables far outweighed any risks from exposure to pesticides. The adage "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" was still good advice. Average consumption is no more than one apple per person a week.

Advisory Committee on Pesticides, an independent scientific body, said: "Putting the risk in perspective, the chance of finding a highresidue apple is less than one in a thousand. The chance of picking two of these apples together and eating them one after another would be one in a million."

Dr Metters said that even eating two high-residye apples in succession would not necessarily produce any ill effect./It might produce a griping stomach in an infant, but it might well not."

The Consumers' Association welcomed the tighter monitoring of pesticide residues, but said responsibility for food safety should not be shifted from producers to consum-

food research division, said: "We want to see pesticides reduced to a level which will enable people to benefit from the nutrition contained in fruit and vegetable skins."
Ron Barker, chairman of the

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau, said: "We are the first country to carry out such in-depth testing and are constantly working to tighten safety procedures and minimise pesticide usage. We should continue to eat the recommended five portions of fresh fruit and vegetables every day in order to gain essential vitamins to function and maintain general good

health." The most contaminated apple found in the survey was a homegrown Worcester Pearmain which contained II times the recommended maximum residue level (MRL) of triazophos, an organophosphate insecticide.

Scientists estimate that a schod-child or adult who are one unpeeled apple containing that amount of triazophos would be consuming between four and six times the 'acute reference dose". This is defined as the maximum amount that can be consumed "on a single occasion in the practical certainty

that no harm will result".

Peeling apples greatly reduces the amount of chemical consumed, the survey found, but does not eliminate it because some of the pesticide is left in the flesh of the fruit.

PUBLIC

Of a total of 700 apples analysed. 12b contained pesticide residues above the recommended MRL but in most cases only slightly su. Scientists say the safety margins built into these legal limits mean they can be breached occasionally by quite large amounts without any risk to health.

Mark Davis, of the Pesticides Trust, which campaigns for a reduction in the use of chemicals in farming, said: The survey shows that there can be big, and as yet unexplained, variations in the residue levels between individual fruit in the same batch. Most current monitoring for pesticide residues here and abroad is based on bulk sampling which cannot pick up these differences."

'Be sure with us' will be Major's slogan

By Phillip Webster **POLITICAL EDITOR**

JOHN MAJOR will launch the Conservative general election campaign today with an attempt to reclaim the centre ground from Tony Blair and a promise that the next Tory government will help the have-nots become the haves".

Mr Major, his preparations damaged by a call from Edwina Currie for him to go quickly if the Tories lose the election, will unveil the Tory slogan - You can only be sure with the Conservatives .- and pave the way for the longest campaign in modern times.

At its heart will be a comparison of the stability offered by the Tories with the risks presented by an untried Labour government. But the last of many attempted fightbacks in recent years was dealt a heavy blow by the spectacle of senior MPs openly discussing the scale of poten-

One suggested that many of the leadership candidates might be swept away. With ministers admitting that the Tories are the election underdogs, it was the last thing Mr Major needed.

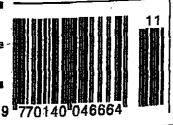
it was the kind of selfinflicted wound that has dogged the Prime Minister for years, and one which left Conservative activists arriving in Bath for the last big Tory gathering before the election angry and dismayed.

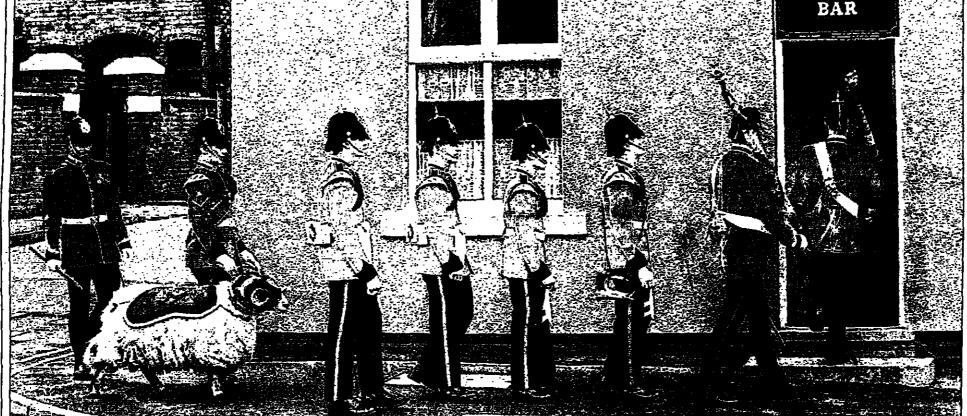
Mrs Currie, the former health minister sacked during the salmonelia-in-eggs controversy, said in a BBC interview that the leadership contest was already well under way. There is already a great deal of formation of columns and and factions and Continued on page 2, col 6

> Leading article, page 25 Tory meeting, page 13



The Times on the Internet http://www.the-tizaes.co.nk





drum up recruits THE ANCIENT military tradition of recruiting over a

Ram helps

pint of ale was revived in a
Derbyshire pub yesterday,
with the help of a Swaledale
ram (Kathryn Knight writes).
Soldiers from the 1st Battalion the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment visited the Miners Arms in likeston as part of three-week recruitment drive in West Midland pubs. More than 300 soldiers from the Wiltshire-based regiment have formed teams of four to

has accompanied them. Drinkers run no risk of finding the King's Shilling at the bottom of their glass: potential recruits are given a card directing them to the nearest Army careers office. The Army is 5,000 men short and the scheme, which is approved by the Ministry of Defence, is being watched closely by other regiments.

scour up to 88 pubs targeted as popular with young people in the area. Private Derby the

26th, the regimental mascot.

Foster father is charged with murder of Billie-Jo

By Emma Wilkins

THE foster father of Billie-Jo custody yesterday after appearing in court charged with her murder

Sion Jenkins, 39, was also charged with "dishonestly obtained a pecuniary advantage" by falsely representing his educational qualifications and teaching experience to gain employment as deputy headmaster of William Parker School in Hastings, East Jenkins, who was

dressed in a navy blazer, blue and white checked open-necked shirt and beige trousers, spoke only to give his name, address and to confirm his date of birth during the 30 minutes hearing at Hastings Magistrates' Court.



Sion Jenkins, who became legal guardian of Billie-Jo

Billie-Jo, 13, was found four weeks ago bludgeoned to death with a metal tent spike as she painted patio doors in the garden of her home on February 15. Mr Jenkins was arrested three weeks ago and released on bail after 35 hours in custody. He has been living in Wales since then and was arrested after keeping a prearranged meeting with police Sussex, on Thursday

His wife, Lois, 35, who did not attend the court hearing, is living at the family home in Hastings with the couple's four daughters, Annie. 12, Lottie, 10. Esther, 9, and

At a press conference held three days after the murder. Mr Jenkins and his wife, a social worker, made an appeal for help in catching Billie-Jo's killer. He went on to pay tribute to Billie-Jo. whom the couple had fostered for five years before becoming her legal guardians last December jointly with her natural lather, William Jenkins Brendan Salsbury, Mr Jen-

kins's solicitor, told magistrates that his client denied the murder charge.

Albanians fire on rescue helicopters

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN, Italian and German rescue helicopters came under fire in Albania yesterday and the United States was considering the despatch of Marines for a beachhead rescue. A European envoy said that foreign intervention was vital to end the anarchy.

Gunmen fired a missile at US helicopters evacuating Americans and the Pentagon suspended its helicopter missions when two US Marine Cobra helicopter pilots separulely reported that they had drawn fire from the ground. German helicopter-born rescue missions were also halted after German troops had to fire back at Albanian secret servicemen

US officials were contemplating various options to

ferry some 2,000 American citizens to safety, including moving people closer to beaches and taking them out in boats. A battalion of 2,000 Marines, specially trained for emergency rescue operations, was standing by on US naval

ships in the Adriatic. Other possibilities were the forced re-opening of Tirana airport, an increased American military presence on the ground and the deployment of more gunships and Harrier jumplets to protect the helicopter missions. The American Ambassador and 17 key staff were staying in Tirana.

Escaping Britons were due to arrive in the Italian port of Brindisi last night.

Britons flee, pages 18, 19

Liverpool keeper forced to kick computer games into touch

By DAVID MADDOCK AND JOHN GOODBODY

A PREMIERSHIP goalkeeper has fingered the problem which caused him to let in three sloppy goals this week and to jeopardise his own international career with England: computer games.

David James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, has accepted the blame for all the goals scored by Newcastle United in a thrilling match on Monday night. Liverpool eventually won 4-3 but not before James's errors - watched by Glenn Hoddle, the England manager — had allowed a 3-0 lead to slip away. "I realise now that computer games have affected my perfor-

mance badly," James explained, "I was getting carried away playing Tekkon II and Teamraider for hours on end." He said that his friend, Colin Jackson, the world record-holder for the 110m hurdles had alerted him to the dangers after the Newcastle match, "Colin told me athletes are banned from playing computer games before big races because it takes the mental edge off their performances and that costs vital fractions of seconds, I know what he means. The last time I had a nightmare was at Middlesbrough in the Coca-Cola Cup, and I had played Nintendo for eight hours beforehand."

Britain's Olympic competitors were

briefed in Atlanta not to spend long hours

playing computer games. The recommen dation came from Brian Miller, one of the psychologists to the British Olympic Association. He said: "Members of the British rowing squad found . . . after they had played games such as Doom, for long periods, that they became very fired for their training sessions ... apparently some athletes were even dreaming of the computer games " James has now banned himself from

playing computer games until after the end of the season - "which is good news for my kids, who complain I've been hogging them".

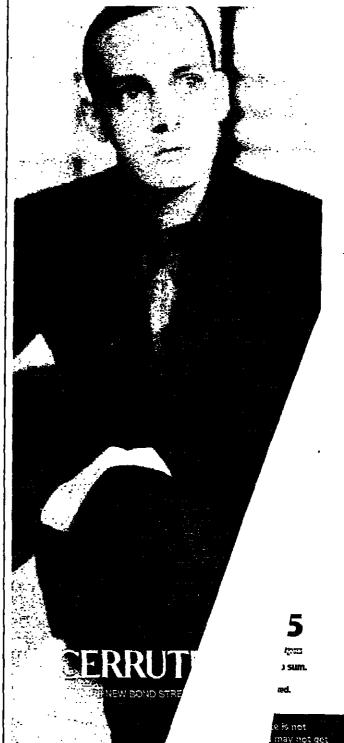


Model goalkeeper, page 53 James: accepts the blame

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THESE MEN USE SHELL

YOU CAN BE SURE OF SHELL

A Shell poster from 1939, featuring the familiar slogan and the painting Racing Motorists

Election slogan is sure

to remind voters of Shell

By Carol Midgley and Polly Newton

dustry were predicting it

would be rather more of a

damp squib. "It just seems to

be using the Shell idea but it

isn't half as snappy," said one senior executive. "Would it be

too awful a pun to say they seem to have run out of fuel?" Stefano Hatfield, the editor

of Campaign, said the slogan was similar to Shell's but not

similar enough to require consultation with the

"Everyone who is old

enough will be reminded of

Shell but it is not that close.

Shell doesn't use that line

anymore, but in any case it is

a very grey area with regard

to copyright. Ads play off

other ads all the time and it is

very rarely that you need to

Asked his verdict on the slogan, Mr Hatfield added:

"It is a bit méaningless, really.

Conservative Central Office

denied the slogan was drawing on the Shell concept.

Instead, it was designed to

convey the solidness and safe-

Steve Hilton, who works for

Lord Saatchi, the Tories' ad-

company.

CHE TIMES 6 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT **BIG PRIZE/RUGBY WALES v ENGLAND; FRANCE v SCOTLAND**

Match reports on the grand slam and triple crown deciders

CELTIC y RANGERS Kevin McCarra on

the Glasgow rivalry (1)



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admired.

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South West Trains faces £1m fine for poor service

enforcement order against

SWT was being made as they

were still cancelling up to 39

trains a day because of driver

shortages. This is between 2.2

per cent and 3.5 per cent short

of the usual 1.500 trains a day.

and if they fail to deliver hat

they will be penalised." Mr O'Brien said. "I am acting to

protect the passenger and SWT have until the end of

April to convince me that they

are operating a proper service

"It's been rotten news for

Mr O'Brien denied that

passengers. Bluntly, they have

been messed around weeks

Opraf had been forced to act

after Thursday night's anar-

chic scenes but said his hand

and will continue to do so.

and it's time to stop."

"I pay them to run a service

THE operators of South West Trains were told yesterday they faced a El milpunitive unless serviced by Office of markett Kail Franchising, gulator. SWT was told that unless they reached set targets by the end of April they could also lose their seven year franchise.

The order, the first to be taken against a privatised rail company, follows weeks of delays and timetable alterations for exasperated commuters and marks a tough new approach by the industry regulator. SWT, which is run by Stagecoach, has to restore services to 98.5 per cent capacity during the month of April or pay a El million fine.

If the service level falls below 97.55 per cent of capacity, the regulator has the option of terminating their franchise. The move follows a £750,000 penalty imposed by Opraf for delays and cancellations to SWT's services during February after the company cancelled hundreds of trains after making 71 drivers redundant. They still face penalties for

John O'Brien, franchising director of OPRAF, said the

each its franchise agreement in March period by cancelling more than 1.5 per cent of its trains. Under yesterday's order, South West Trains are required to display two posters at each of their 250 stations explaining to passengers their targets.

There were angry scenes on a South West service to Exeter from Waterloo on Thursday night after frustrated passengers hijacked the train when it was announced it would stop short at Salisbury.

In a separate announcement today. Mr O'Brien said SWT had also committed itself to five new measures at a cost of El million, including spending £500,000 on station improvements, £250,000 on improving train reliability. and better passenger

information. Opraf's action was wel-comed by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, who said: "Customers have a right to expect a decent, reliable service and for several weeks many of them have not been getting one. Today's anncuncement makes it clear that the Government in general and the Franchising Direc tor in particular stand foursquare behind the rights of the

Running on aggression

BY ADAM JONES

STAGECOACH, the company that operates South West Trains, is famed for the aggressive competitiveness that has seen it grow from a family-run enterprise into a El.8 billion public company. Confrontation with regulatory bodies, particularly the Monopolies and Mergers Com-mission, is a way of life.

The company is dominated by two of its founders, Brian Souter, 43, and Ann Gloag, his older sister by 12 years. They grew up in a council house in Perth before building up a firm that is one of the most powerful players in the deregulated transport industry.

The company, still based in modest offices in Perth, floated



Gloag: owner of Beaufort Castle

on the London Stock Exchange in 1993 and has been a extremely successful stock for Mr Souter, the chairman.

worth £267 million at current market prices. In 1995-1996 he was paid a total of £371,000. Mrs Gloag, a director, owns

30.5 million shares, worth £224 million, and was paid £189,000 last year. She owns Beaufort Castle in Scotland, the ancestral home of the Lovat family.

In amassing its bus empire a stake in another operator tor out of business in Darling-MMC as "predatory "deplorable" behaviour. It had

service. South West Trains was Stagecoach's first railway franchise, bought for a nominal El. It has since bought the Island Line on the Isle of

poached staff and was

runnning free buses a few

minutes ahead of the rival

through a rapid series of acquisitions and the aggressive squeezing of rivals, Stagecoach has had many brushes with regulators. The MMC has ruled in six cases that Stagecoach could not take because it would give them too much of a stranglehold on the market, acting against the public interest. In August 1995, the company's behaviour in running a rival bus operaton was condemned by the " and

Major will address the Tory faithful in Bath today has been designed specifically to allow a spectacular launch of the new slogan. A senior source said the Prime Minis-

ers from the advertising in-Continued from page I groups," she said. But she added that if Mr Major stayed

> paring it for the next term in Parliament.

'Be sure with us,' says Major hold on to allow potential

on after a defeat to allow the dust to settle, it would be a disaster. "If there is going to be a leadership contest, please, John, please don't hang around. "We ought to have a leadership contest that is over cleanly and quickly and then the new leader, whoever he or she is, can get on with the task of uniting the party and pre-

John Biffen, the former Cabinet minister, suggested that defeat might be so crushing that Mr Major would have to

THE slogan which will pro-

vide the theme for the Tories'

election campaign will be

announced today. "You Can Only Be Sure With The

Conservatives" is intended to

hammer home the message

that the Tory Party is the only

one to be trusted, but for thousands of voters it will

carry echoes of another adver-

tising campaign which ran for

more than 50 years in Britain.

The oil company Shell be-came a household name with

its legendary corporate jingle. You Can Be Sure of Shell, which ran up until the early

The set from which John

ter's performance would fea-

ture "a moment of excitement", which is under-

stood to involve technical

wizardry rather than grand

oratory. "It will be something

to surprise the activists," the

Yesterday, however, insid-

successors to be returned in by-elections. Mrs Currie's damaging intervention, seized upon as a gift by Labour, came just after Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, became the first of several heavyweight ministers to demand discipline and unity. Speaking in Bath's assembly rooms, he admitted it would be a difficult election.

But he said: "We will fight a tough election. We will fight a serious election. And we will fight that election united as a party and determined to win." Within two hours, news of Mrs Currie's bombshell was reverberating around the Bath

meeting. Brian Mawhinney. the Conservative chairman. was cheered loudly when he delivered a warning that could have been prepared for Mrs Currie and all like her. "To every Conservative, one message," he said "If you don't have something to say that will help us win, don't say anything at all."

vertising guru, said: I think the significance is in the

strategic thought behind the words. Consider the risks of

voting Labour but he sure

The Shell television advert

was devised by Ogilvy and

Mather. The slogan appeared

on dozens of posters as well as

in a long-running corporate

television campaign. The

copyrighter is understood to

have left Ogilvy and Mather

The Conservatives have

paid increasing attention to

conference sets in recent

years, abandoning the tradi-

tional platform arrangement

of powerful people in rows in

favour of the dramatically lit,

geometric design of the kind

seen in Bournemouth last

away from the Polithureau

said one strategist.

reviewing the troops look."

During the election cam-

paign, each of the venues used

by the Tories for rallies out-

side London will have its own

tailor-made set, created by

We have tried to move

several years ago.

about the Conservatives."

Privately, many senior constituency officials at the conference were blaming the behaviour of MPs and ministers for the party's present

> Leading article, page 25 Tory meeting, page 13

Bingham attacks politically driven justice reforms

By Frances GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE country's most senior judge last night delivered an unprecedented rebuke to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Jack Straw, his Labour Shadow, for using reform of the criminal justice system to score political points.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill. the Lord Chief Justice, sharply criticised Mr Howard's latest reforms, including plans to limit the right to jury trials. which he said had been drawn up without proper consult-ation and could lead to "un-

foreseen consequences". "It is highly undesirable that changes of the kind now under discussion should be the subject of party political controversy." Lord Bingham said. There was room for differing views on how to ensure the system was fair, efficient and cost-effective, acquitted the innocent and con-

victed the guilty, he said. But that should be an argument about means and not



Bingham: derided Home Secretary's proposals

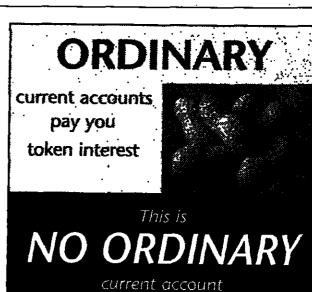
ends. "It is very unfortunate if those who hold differing views seek to brand their opponents as lacking sincerity in their opposition to crime, or as indifferent to the evils which flow from it."

Historically, criminal jus-tice reforms had not occupied the political foreground. "It would be welcome if the future were to bring a return to a more measured and bi-partisan approach."

Lord Bingham was giving his first public reaction to Home Office recent proposals which include scrapping the right to elect trial by jury for a raft of offences. In an address to Gloucestershire magistrates, he gave a point-bypoint critique of Mr Howard's plans: proposals to restrict the right to elect trial by jury raised "far-reaching prob-

lems," he said. "I think it is an important and valuable principle that those liable for conviction of serious crime by justices should voluntarily accept the justices' exercise of juris-

diction. "Even in the relaxed moral climate of today, there remain offences which, although not very grave viewed in the context of the whole criminal calendar, are sufficient to blight a defendant's professional reputation or destroy his standing in the local community." He added: "If in such cases a defendant, acting on responsible professional advice, seeks trial before a judge and jury, it is a poten-tially significant change to deny him that right."



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Minister

priest i shoplif evil su

Sixth-form

student is found hanged

Û,

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'It's not stealing, but a badly needed reallocation of economic resources'

Priest advocates shoplifting from 'evil' superstores

A CLERGYMAN yesterday advocated shoplifting from supermarkets to retaliate for the damage he claimed they did to local communities. The Rev John Papworth said that theft was justified and added: "I don't regard it as stealing. I regard it as a badly needed reallocation of economic

The 75-year-old Church of England priest, who works part-time in the north London area of St John's Wood, made the remarks in front of police officers at a community committee called to discuss the fight against crime.

Mr Papworth said after

Tuesday's meeting of Pad-dington and Marylebone Police Community Consultative Committee that he had shoplifted when young. "I would do it now, but like most clergymen. I don't have the courage of my convictions," he said. Yesterday he stood by his defence of shoplifting from superstores, which he con-demned as "places of evil and temptation" that had forced small shops out of business.

The state of the s

Peter Russell, the chairman of the Home Office-sponsored committee, said: "I have read the Ten Commandments, one of which is, Thou shalt not steal'. It is wrong whether there is temptation or not." Mr Papworth, who assists

with services at St Mark's Church, St John's Wood, told The Times: "You can steal from a person - though you must not — but you cannot steal from a thing. These huge shops are the enemies of civilisation, creaming off profits, promoting unemployment, causing widespread bank-

They are a dagger in the guts of civilisation and the more they flourish, the more civilisation goes down the drain. They are doing that in seven-league strides because we have destroyed the structure, powers and prerogatives of local neighbourhoods. You cannot have morality without community."

ruptcies of small businesses.

Mr Papworth, a widower with three children, was brought up in an orphanage in Shoreditch, east London. He was ordained while in Zambia, where he was a personal assistant to President Kaunda in the Seventies. He has written two books, Small is Powerful and New Politics. which advocate the restoration of community life. He refuses to shop in supermarkets and believes that one day should be set aside each year for shoppers to help themselves free of charge in supermarkets.

He was imprisoned in the Sixties with Bertrand Russell for his part in the Committee of 100 marches calling for the nuclear bomb to be banned and was jailed in the United States after taking part in a march for black rights.

He told the community committee that people were tempted into supermarkets by propaganda. "Once you are inside, there are these lavish displays of goods. Yet hardly enough staff are attendant on them. Of course people are tempted and sometimes walk out without paying. I have every sympathy for them, in fact I think they are fully A spokesman for the Bishop

of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, said: They are his views. The bishop would not hold himself accountable for anything he says. One might say it is unfair to put temptation in people's way, but this does not make it right. There is a basic premise that people should not take things that do not belong to them." The Rev John Barrie, the vicar of St Mark's, said: "I

certainly do not agree with what he is saying. Stealing is always wrong."

Andrew Coker, a spokesman for Tesco, said: "I find it very surprising that a vicar

should be encouraging people



Mr Papworth: "These huge shops are a dagger in the guts of civilisation"

Sculptor who sought peace threatened to kill farmhands

By JOANNA BALE

A SCULPTOR who moved May then took the gun away to Devon in search of tranquillity threatened to shoot two farmhands because he was annoyed by the noise of their tractors, a court was told vesterday.

هكذا من الإعلام

Steven May, 32, admitted two charges of making a threat to kill and was sentenced to 2½ years in prison. Exeter Crown Court was told that May moved from London to east Devon, where he bought a smallholding in Cheriton Bishop, with 20 sheep, two horses, goats, chickens and

two dogs.

He wanted a quiet and peaceful place where he could concentrate on his art undisturbed.

Ruth Vincent, for the pros ecution, said that he had repeatedly asked the farmhands to keep the noise down after they started work with their tractors in a field neighbouring his

On May 26 last year, May had been drinking heavily when he approached them. After a brief row he returned with what appeared to be a double-barrelled shotgun.

He pointed it at them and tried to make the men kneel in front of their tractors. saying: "This is my private entrance, and if you try to leave through it. I will blow your heads off."

and showed the farm workers that it had no stock. It was just the barrels of a rusty shotgun. But the two fled and alerted the police.

Ms Vincent said: "He said he was fed up with the noise being made by the men in the field."

May also pleaded guilty to cultivating two cannabis plants, for which he was sentenced to 28 days, to run concurrently. Geoffrey Mer-cer, for the defence, said May, a graduate who worked as an artist and sculptor, bitterly regretted

"He had shown remorse for his victims. He did not consider how frightened the two men would be. He was clearly angry at the time.

"He felt they had been utterly inconsiderate. He had gone up to them and they had laughed." He said May had shown the farmhands that the gun was not

He told the court that May had now moved away from Devon and had no intention of returning.

Judge Neville, sentencing May, said: "Your conduct on this occasion, by threatening to kill these two men with a realistic looking shotgun, is so serious that only a custodial sentence can be

Minister jailed for stealing £56,000 from police bank account

A CHURCH minister who headed a charity supported by the Prince's Trust was jailed for 18 months yesterday for the theft of £56,000 of police cash. Terence Mene, 53, known as The Shepherd by wor-shippers at The Celestial Church of Christ in Mitcham, Surrey, used some of the money to buy a candle making machine but most of what was left disappeared.

The money had been safe in Bank of England until a cleverly forged envicted of three counts of theft in letter, apparently signed by three. August 1995.

The judge added: "You told lies to the Metropolitan Police officials, was The Recorder, Philip Singer, QC.

received authorising its transfer. Southwark Crown Court was told. Within days of it being sent to a Trustee Savings Bank account that Mene had set up for his Celestial Fund for Children and Battered Women, all but a few hundred pounds had been withdrawn.

Mene of Crofton Road, Camberwell, south east London, was cleared of using a false instrument with intent - the bogus letter - but

told him: "It is a very sad day to see a church minister in your position. You are the shepherd of your flock. You are held in respect and esteem by many people.

This was a sophisticated and barefaced fraud on the Bank of England and although you have been acquitted of participation in that letter you have been convicted of stealing the money. The sums of money were substantial and your

court. You sought to shelter behind your position in order to escape the consequences of your dishonest conduct. It was a betrayal of the trust and respect in which you were

The jury heard that Mene set up his charity in 1993 to relieve "hardship and distress" among women who had been assaulted, and to help their children. It had apparently received financial support from Boots the Chemist, and on one occasion was given £1,500 by the Prince's Trust headed by the Prince of Wales. Donations were also sought from the John Paul Getty Trust and the National Lottery.

Peter Grieves-Smith, for the prosecution, said the £56,400 illegally withdrawn from the Metropolitan Police's district authority fund had since been reimbursed by the Bank of England. Mene used £30,000 to buy the candle-making machine as part of a project connected with his

When arrested a few weeks later he claimed most of the remainder had gone on redecorating and

rebuilding his church premises — a building called "The Miracle Centre" — but invoices he produced to back up his story were bogus.

He told officers that as it was his charity's regular practice to solicit funds from various organisations, he never thought to question how the money had got into the charity's account or where it had come from. His first thought was to put it to good use, he insisted.

But Mr Grieves-Smith told the jury: "He knew perfectly well he was not entitled to that money."



Mene: devious

student is found hanged

By JOANNA BALE

PUPILS at the school attended by Caroline Dickinson, who was murdered on a trip to France, were in mourning again yesterday after one of their classmates was found hanged in an apparent suicide. Polly Ritchie, 16, a sixth-

former at Launceston Community College, Cornwall, was found dead at home on Sunday. Her death is not thought to be connected with that of Caroline, 13, who was raped and killed last July. Caroline's father travelled to Rennes yesterday to monitor the progress of the French police investigation.

The school's head teacher

Alan Wroath, said that Polly's death had come as a complete shock. Mr Wroath said that she had been a talented athlete and an imaginative and creative student who was working on a language newspaper.
Polly was a bright, intelligent
student who achieved outstanding grades in all her GCSE subjects." She would have achieved excellent results at A level, he added.

Sixth-form | Gun club warden | Rugby club asks for cash from **Dunblane funds**

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A WARDEN at a Scottish rifle range used by Thomas Hamilton has applied to the Dunblane funds for help when he loses his job. Harry Tomlinson, 33, a father of three from Stirling, expects to be made redundant when Whitestone Rifle Range, two miles from Dunblane, shuts next month.

The range was closed after the massacre at Dunblane Primary School last March when Hamilton killed 16 children and their teacher. Gwen Mayor. Formerly it was used by police, the Territorial Army and gun clubs, Mr Tomlinson said. Hamilton was an "infrequent" visitor to

Yesterday news of Mr Tomlinson's application to both the Dunblane Fund and the Stirling Observer Fund, set up in the wake of the tragedy to accept the dona-tions that flooded into the town, was greeted with disbelief by anti-gun campaigners. Ann Pearston, founder of the Snowdrop Petition, which is seeking a total ban on

handguns, said there would be a public outery if he was given any money. Members of the public had made donations thinking they would be given to the families of those injured and killed in the massacre, she said. "This man will no doubt receive some redundancy money, some state benefits and possibly get another job. The people who are involved in the tragedy will have to take this to their graves and and need help to cope with it for the rest of their

lives," she said.

But Mr Tomlinson, who has worked at Whitestone for three years as a maintenance man, said he did not think his application was insensitive. even though it coincided with the March 13 anniversary. He said: "I am not being callous. I know people lost their children and that's terrible. I have three children of my own, but I am about to lose my job and won't be able to provide for my family. People are making me out to be some sort of ogre, but me losing my job is down to the Dunblane incident."

chief cleared of bogus transfer deal

Observer.

Mr Robinson told the court the scheme was the idea of a fellow director and that he had gone along with it to keep him happy and keep the director's financial investment at the club. He said he always knew that Leeds was the kind of club that would stick to the letter of the law and would not be tempted to take part in the

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE chairman of Wigan Rugby League Club was cleared of intending to pervert the course

of justice yesterday.

A jury at Bolton Crown
Court found Jack Robinson. 55, not guilty of trying to set up a bogus transfer deal in order to inflate potential libel damages from a newspaper.

The prosecution had alleged

that Mr Robinson approached Alfred Davies, the chief executive of a rival club. Leeds, to urge him to write a letter suggesting that he had called off a fictitious £150,000 transfer deal for Great Britain and Wales prop Neil Cowie, due to adverse publicity in the Wigan

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Comic ready to stand up for Europe

By JAMES LANDALE POLITICAL REPORTER

BRITAIN'S pro-Europeans revealed their new persuasive spokesman yesterday: the flamboyant comedian Eddie Izzard. It could be the most dramatic contribution to British politics since the Spice Girls spoke of their admiration for Mrs Thatcher.

izzard, whose choice of cothes and make up might sometimes appear to rival the Spice Girls, has given his support to the European Movement, which is hunting for celebrity backers. Last night it was not clear how they might make best use of the stand-up comedian who specialises in surreal

improvisation. The group is one of Britain's leading pro-European lobbying outfits trying to com-



Izzard: no plan to share the stage with Heath

bat Euroscepticism in Westminster and across the country. Their current campaign, Europe 97, explains the benefits on EU membership. In an attempt to enliven the somewhat dry debate on Europe. the movement decided to canvas support among Britain's He added: "It is good news. While many in the arts

world have kept their support close to their chests, Izzard, 36, wrote back saying he was supportive of the campaign and would be delighted to help. He is best known in the political world for his support of the Rock the Vote campaign to get young people into the polling booths.

The comedian, who was unavailable for comment yesterday, is such a keen European that he tells some of his jokes in French, German and even Latin. He is shortly planning to play Dick Turpin

A spokesman for the European Movement said that izzard would be coming in soon to discuss how he could help, but emphasised that nothing had been agreed yet.

The polls consistently show that people don't believe politicians but they do believe others like businessmen and celebrities. He hasn't agreed to do anything particular yet but it is good to have his support. He is certainly not going to be appearing on the same platform with Sir Edward Heath next week." Sir Teddy Taylor, the

Eurosceptic fory MP for Southend East, said he would not mind King Kong speaking for the European Movement as long as he was not being paid for by the taxpayer. He added: "I hope that Mr lzzard, in his delightful way. will explain why unemployment in Europe has risen by five million in the past five years. In some ways, this unusual gentleman might be just the person to do it."

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Bouncer jailed for drunken assault on MP

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Bouncer jailed for drunken assault on MP

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

BOUNCER who headbutted the Labour frontbencher lan McCartney in a workingmen's club was jailed for 12 months yesterday,

Judge Carter said he was jailing Keiron Quinn, 30. not because he assaulted a Member of Parliament but to set an example

At an earlier hearing Quinn. 30, a building fore-man, of Wigan, Greater Manchester, had pleaded guilty to assaulting Mr McCartney and causing him actual bodily harm. The MP, who is 5ft lin,

is a frontbench spokesman on employment and has been waging a long-run-ning campaign for the registration of doormen to cradicate drugs and violence in nightclubs.

Bolton Crown Court was told that Mr McCartney, 45, went to Platt Bridge Labour Club in his constituency, and where he is a member, for a drink at 3pm on November 16 last year. Quinn. who works as a part-time doorman in Wigan at weekends, was "hopelessly drunk". He insulted the MP for Makerfield while he was having a quiet drink, then punched and headbutted him. Mr McCartney suffered a broken nose, blurred vision and a loose tooth in the attack.

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Thomas Fitzpatrick, for the defence, told the court that Quinn believed he was a "sacrificial lamb" and had taken exception to Mr McCartney's cam-paign. He added: "The circumstances are aggravated because the com-plainant is an MP."

The court was told that Quinn had previous con-. victions for wounding. assault, criminal damage and aggravated injury. Most of the offences were



McCartney: his nose was broken by Quinn

Rescue services face extra risks after £16m defeat

By Frances GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

RESCUE services run the risk of massive damages claims after the Court of Appeal ruled that firefighters are not immune from being sued for negligence. In a test case with wide ramifications, judges yesterday rejected an appeal by a local authority which paid £16 million compensa-

tion for a fire brigade blunder. Hampshire County Council had argued that firefighters, like the police, were immune from being sued for negligence in the course of their duties. The court ruled that, although a fire brigade was not under any common-law duty to answer a call, it could be sued if it created a danger or made things worse on arrival at the scene Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, sitting with Lords Justices Potter and Judge, said: "There is no ground for giving immunity in such a case."

The destruction of a company headquarters because Hampshire fire officers turned off the sprinkler system was such a case, the judges said, dismissing the authority's appeal against a compensation award won last June by the owners and occupiers of the building. Hampshire is to seek leave to appeal to the Lords. Its legal costs are thought to be over £2 million. Judgments in three cases

yesterday were of vital importance to the insurance industry. In each case, building insurers were behind the claim against the fire service. and insurance companies stand to save millions where liability can be shifted on to a fire authority.

Afterwards Hampshire's joint chief executive. Peter Robertson, said the decision to switch off the sprinkklers was honestly taken by the officer in charge in the belief that that was the best thing to do.

We take the view that people risking their lives to protect others should have the backing of the law. Firefighters are there day in, day out, in hazardous situations, having to make quick judg-ments in life-threatening situations. This ruling could lead to defensive firefighting and the diversion of resources away from firefighting in the direction of litigation." Insurers were paid premi-ums to cover risks, Mr Robert-

son said. A clear demarcation was needed between acts which were committed under extreme pressure, and criminal negligence, which was never alleged in this case. The fire brigade had been called to a roof blaze at Digital

Equipment Ltd at Basingstoke, Hampshire. The owners of the building, Capital &

at an immigration appeal

Counties, had fitted an automatic sprinkler system which, it was claimed, would have limited the damage to a small area of the roof void, had it not been turned off.

In two other cases yesterday the judges upheld findings that it would not be "just, fair and reasonable" to impose a duty of care on the fire brigades concerned. A claim against the London

Fire and Civil Defence Authority by a plastic waste recycling company, John Munro (Acrylics), whose plant in Wimbledon, southwest London, was gutted by fire. was dismissed when a judge held that the brigade owed no legal duty even to respond to a call. Firefighters initially re-ported a false alarm after learning that a television crew filming London's Burning had set off a controlled explosion on adjacent wasteland.

Mormons tried to sue the West Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority for £1.8 million over the destruction of a chapel in Huddersfield. A judge struck out the case, holding that the group had no private right of action. Fifteen fire appliances had attended the scene, but it was some time before they were able to deal with the blaze efficiently because of badly maintained hydrants.



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Detective Sergeant Richard Ellis, right, and Martin Summers, of the Lefevre Gallery, with the recovered painting

Picasso thief may have fled to Spain

POLICE hunting the man who stole a Picasso painting worth £650,000 from a London art gallery believe he may be on the run in Spain.

The painting, Tête de Femme, was recovered from a man walking along Baker Street, central London, on Thursday in an extraordinary stroke of luck for a long-running covert police operation. A Scotland Yard spokesman said yesterday: "The robbery seems to have been more organised than it originally ap-peared and it is believed that the man

who carried it out has gone abroad." Police yesterday publicised its safe recovery with a photocall outside the Lefevre Gallery in Mayfair, from where it was stolen nine days ago by a man with a sawn-off shotgun.

The robbery took just 35 seconds and was captured on security cameras, but the quality of the film was too bad to reproduce an identifiable picture. The man escaped in a taxi.

A reward of £50,000 had been offered by insurers for the safe return of the 1939 portrait of Picasso's mistress, Dora Maar. It is thought this has not been paid involved in its recovery.

Forensic scientists examined the painting before sending it to Christie's for authentication. Jackie Bennett, spokes-woman for the South East Regional Crime Squad which recovered the painting, said it did not appear to have been damaged.

Peter Scott, 66, of Islington, north London, and Ronald Spring, 69, of Southgate, north London, were charged yesterday with conspiracy to handle a work of art and will appear at Redbridge Magistrates' Court today.

Stowaway hid in Boss 'humiliated' woman over his affairs jet's wheel bay

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN INDIAN who flew to Britain hidden in the wheel bay of a jumbo jet gave officials three names and at least two stories about his family, an immigration appeals

tribunal was told yesterday. Pardeep Saini, 22, survived the ten-hour ordeal on the Boeing 747 from Delhi but his brother, Vijay, 18, died of hypothermia and his body fell from the undercarriage as the plane prepared to land at Heathrow.

Mr Saini, a car mechanic from the Punjab, claimed asy-lum after being found wandering on the tarmac. He had survived temperatures as low as -60C and a lack of oxygen. He was appealing against the Government's refusal to grant him refugee status. Mr Saini, who is living with an uncle in Southall, west London, claims that he was fleeing from persecution in India after being wrongly accused of

hearing in south London, said that Mr Saini had initially said, last October, that both his parents were dead. At another interview he claimed that only his mother was dead, she said. The hearing was told that the final account had been prepared by relatives after Mr Saini gave them details of what had happened.

Miss Eshun said that he had given two other names, Jasbir Singh and Joli Singh. His cousin, Raj Bola, told the hearing that Mr Saini's mothfather died last December.

Daya Mann, counsel for Mr Saini, said that he had had a traumatic experience and was undergoing psychiatric treat-ment. Miss Eshun adjourned the hearing until April 18 for psychiatric reports to establish whether the discrepancies were due to Mr Saini's state of mind at the time of the original interview.

By JOANNA BALE who was also a director of the A SALES manager left her job after her married boss "hu-

miliated" her with detailed accounts of his affairs with women during Far Eastern business trips, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday. Maxine Brooks, 55, said that her managing director, Paul Donney, had told her that

Indonesian women were used

by businessmen as "play-

Despite numerous calls and faxes from the women to the office, she was expected to keep Mr Donney's affairs secret from his wife, Elizabeth.

company. Mrs Brooks said she was subjected to details of his affairs, which she found offensive, soon after joining Mr Donney's furniture importers, Charleroi Interna-

She told the tribunal in Southampton: "He implied that he had numerous affairs every time he went out there on business. He said that women were there to be had on a plate and used by numerous business people as playthings. I was frightened to react because I had just joined

Mrs Brooks, of Southamp-

ton, said that, while on a fourweek trip to Indonesia in October 1995. Mr Donney would telephone her several times a day about business. She said that during one call he was in bed with a woman.

Mrs Brooks said that, while Mr Donney was away, a colleague found some photographs behind a one-armed bandit in the company's office in Marchwood, Hampshire. "There were about a dozen pictures of Mr Donney with scantily clad women. There were two photos of him in bed with women, along with let-ters from a woman he had had a relationship with in Indonesia. I found them distressing." Mrs Brooks added that her boss went to Indonesia every three months for four to six weeks at a time. When he returned she would have to deal with telephone calls and personal letters from women he had met there.

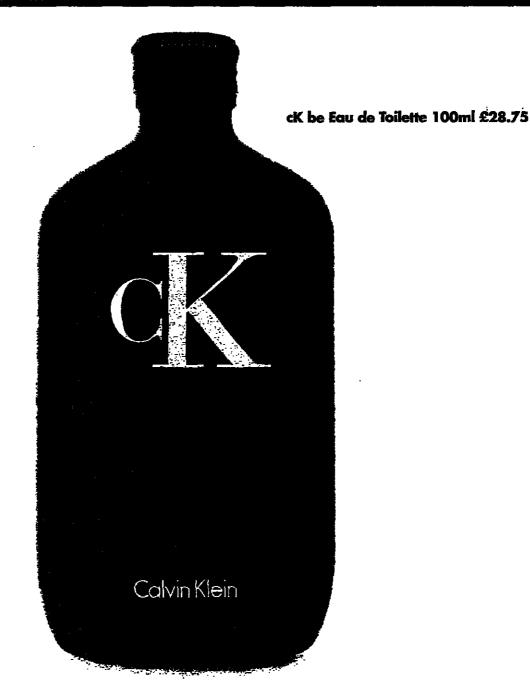
When she tried to discuss how unhappy she was with the situation, Mr Donney "raged and swore" at her. She said she was continuously bullied, insulted and humiliated by Mr Donney until she walked out of her job in August last year. She is claim-ing sexual discrimination and sexual harassment.

Mr Donney, of Beaulieu Hampshire, said he had "an active life" in Indonesia and that his wife knew about his girlfriends there. "My main girlfriends are really sincere. I have had three long-estab-lished affairs and see them on a regular basis. We are not hiding anything.

"I have not entered into explicit accounts of my sexual activities and would not do so because the relationships are stable and caring. I think Mrs Brooks is doing this to put me in an embarrassing position with my wife."

The tribunal was adiourned.

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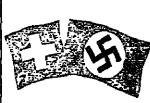
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6Winston

Churchill praised Switzerland as a "democratic state, standing for freedom among her mountains". Yet, while Allied soldiers died in the real cause of

freedom in the second world war, Swiss banks profited by secretly helping the Nazis 9

Tom Bower reveals the causes of Swiss shame in a second extract from his book Blood Money, in The Sunday Times tomorrow

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Proposals follow woman's six-day ordeal

Rape victims to be spared questioning by accused in court

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

lose the right to question their alleged victims in court, under proposals announced by the Home Office yesterday. The move is aimed at preventing women from having to undergo the ordeal of being questioned by the man who may have attacked them.

Last year Raiston Edwards. 42. who was jailed for life for rape, spent six days questioning 34-year-old Julia Mason during his trial at the Old Bailey. He wore the same jeans and jumper as he did during a 16-hour attack at her home in south London. "He was reliving the rape," Mrs Mason said. She waived

her right to anonymity to press for the law to be changed. No other woman should go through this again."
Under the Government's proposals, judges would be given the discretion to prevent unrepresented defendants in rape cases cross-examining their alleged victims. The judge would have the power to order that only a barrister should conduct the cross-

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is also considering extending the restriction to other offences, although the

MEN accused of rape are to Home Office was unable to provide further details. Mr Howard said in a state ment: "I fully sympathise with

victims who have had to endure further-distress by being cross-examined by their alleged attacker, 1 think it is right that the courts should have the discretion, where necessary, to protect such

Under the Criminal Procedure Act, 1865, defendants have the right to call witnesses and address the jury Judges cannot force legal representa-tion on the accused, but must guide them on points of law. The Criminal Justice Act, 1991,

who feel unable to face this sort of trauma.

Edwards: accused of reliving rape in court

withdrew the right of suspects conducting their own defence to cross-examine their alleged vicitims if they were children.

Legal experts are against changing the procedures for rape, arguing that judges have powers to control threatening witnesses. But yesterday's announcement was backed by Victim Support. Paul Collins, a spokesman, said: Too many women do not report sex crimes because they fear the ordeal facing them if they do. "While we would not sug-gest that defendants in rape cases are stripped of their rights, there has to be a balance struck. There is a real

In the case of Julia Mason. there was even a suggestion that the rapist got some form of sexual pleasure from crossexamining her. It cannot be allowed to continue, and we welcome the announcement."

risk at the moment that justice

is not done for some women

Janet Anderson, Labour's spokeswoman on women's issues, who has been pressing for such a measure, welcomed the announcement. "It is clearly wrong that any woman or any man should have to go through such an experience."



Virginia McKenna and Bill Travers with the natural stars of Ring of Bright Water

Island home to become sanctuary for otters

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE former island home of Gavin Maxwell, author of Ring of Bright Water, is to be made into a wildlife sanctuary for otters, ending uncertainty over its future.

Almost 30 years after the author's death, Eilean Ban, the six-acre isle in the narrow straits between mainland Scotland and Skye, is to be handed. over by the Scottish Office to a trust run by the local

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, announced plans for the sanctuary, coupled with an interpretive centre at Kyleakin. on the mainland, yesterday. He said it would be of "economic and environmental benefit" to the people of Skye.

The trust still has to be established and talks between the Scottish Office, Highland Office and community groups are continuing. Governmen funding for the trust is expected

to be available. The Born Free Foundation, established by Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna, whostarred in the 1969 film Ring of Bright Water, will have a representative on the trustsboard. Last year the couple managed to halt the auction of the island by the Scottish Office... by putting lorward conservation proposals inspired by Maxwell's dream to turn his "wild, heathery" home into a wildlife haven. The island had, remained unchanged for centuries until the Scottish Office? bought it in 1992 as a prop for the £35 million Skye Bridge.

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as girl discovers happiness as man

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE story of a boy who was raised as a girl seems to show that gender really is all in the genes. Despite the efforts of psychiatrists, surgeons and parents, he never felt happy as a girl and eventually reverted to being a man, got married and is now living happily.

The man's life history

told as a cautionary tale by Milton Diamond, a sexologist at Hawaii University in Archives of Paediatric Adolescent Medicine. He says that it is the first long-term follow-up of a male with the normal allotment of XY chromosomes who was raised as a female.

Dr Diamond says that the problems for "John" began when he was eight months old, in 1963. An accident during circumcision left him without a penis. His parents took him to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Maryland where experts said that the best thing would be to raise him as a girl.

His testicles were surgically removed and an artifical vagina created, as is done in sexchange operations, John

The result, says Dr Diamond, has often been extolled as the classic demonstration of how the environment can override nature in forming gender identity. In fact, he says, it was nothing of the sort: it was a disaster.

Despite being raised as a girl. Joan never felt happy. At therapy to complete the conversion to a woman. She grew breasts, but was never accepted by other girls, nor felt comfortable as a woman.

At 14. she rehelled, confessing to her doctor. "I suspected I was a hoy since the second grade." She was eventually given a mastectomy to remove the breasts and was given male hormones. At the age of 25, now John once more, he married a woman who aiready had children.

Dr Diamond says that the case history has implications for any child horn with ambiguous sexuality. "Keep your knife away." he says. Let the kids make a decision when they get older."

Michael Bailey, a psychologist at Northwestern University, Illinois, told Science Now, a daily science news service run by Science maga-zinc, that the case was heralded by many as the pinnacle of proof that psycho-social factors could override biological factors in determining gender.

Textbooks continued to claim that Joan made a successful adjustment, in spite of contradictory evidence. Dr Diamond's report says Dr Bailey, "suggests that, if anything, how you're reared mat-

Boy raised | Number of crimes 'is twice official figure'

THE number of offences committed in England and Wales is running at almost twice the five million recorded by police, a MORI survey published today says (Richard Ford writes)

It found that 44 per cent of crime victims failed to report incidents to police because they had no confidence that criminals would be caught. felt the offences were too trivial or believed the police

would not investigate. The

survey showed that 47 per cent of people had been a victim of crime in the 12 months to December last year. Although Michael Howard,

the Home Secretary, will pub-lish official figures on Monday showing a drop of up to 2 per cent in recorded crime, 88 percent of the 2.027 people interviewed for the survey in next month's Reader's Digest said that their concern about crime had increased either a lot or a little in recent years.

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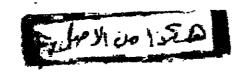
on red hot plates, whilst the back of his legs are bit in time to music. Onlookers taunt him and force him to drink beet. Why? Because they're teaching him to 'dance' for tourists who pay to watch his agonising waltz. The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)

rescues 'dancing bears' and takes them to sanctuaries where they can be free of pain and suffering. But we can't carry out our life-saving work without the support of people like you. Your gift of just £10, or whatever you cas afford, will help cut the chains of innocent as

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THE NEW CITROËN SAXO

Peers to say

Visitors

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Law threat

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

by victims

of abuse

VICTIMS of one of Britain's biggest child abuse scandals threatened legal action yesterday unless the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, ordered a public inquiry within a fortnight.

Solicitors representing 150 abuse victims have already issued writs against the organisations which ran five children's homes at the centre of a three-year police and social services investigation in Merseyside and Cheshire. They are now demanding an official inquiry into their allegation that a paedophile ring has been operating in

Already II paedophiles who managed to get senior jobs in the children's homes have been given prison sentences. Peter Garsden, a solicitor from Cheadle, told a news con-ference. "If they continue to prevaricate we have to seriously consider taking proceedings against the Government in a judicial

Keith Laverack, 52, a former children's home headmaster and social services manager who was jailed for 18 years by Chester Crown Court for 15 child sex offences last week, began his activities in Warrington but moved

Judge 'misled' into ordering woman to have Caesarean

By Frances GTBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE was misled into granting an order for a pregnant woman to be held in hospital against her will and forced to have her baby by Caesarean section, the High Court was told yesterday.

In an emergency lunch-hour hearing of the Family Division last April, Mrs Jus-tice Hogg was said to have been wrongly informed that the woman was already in labour, that it was a matter of life and death, and that she was refusing food and drink. Hospital lawyers also allegedly failed to tell the judge that the woman had solicitors act-

gone beyond the four-month time limit for launching a test action over the Mental Health Act. The 29-year-old single mother from south London will go to the Court of Appeal. In addition, Judge Popplewell said that she could still take her case before the Family Division in a separate challenge over the granting of the

ing for her. Yesterday's attempt to chall-enge the legality of the deten-tion was blocked after Mr Justice Popplewell ruled that "Miss S", who wants her anonymity preserved, had

order against her wishes and without her knowledge.

Yesterday's ruling came

after the High Court heard the first evidence of what happened at a private hearing where judges sanctioned the Caesarean without her being legally represented. Miss S had wanted no medical intervention.

The woman, now the mother of an 11-month-old daughter, was detained in April 1996 when she was about 36 weeks pregnant. A court order was obtained allowing surgeons to operate because of fears about her health and that of her unborn baby, after she developed potentially life-threatening pre-eclampsia. Richard Gordon, QC, for

Miss S. said the court order had been made by a judge who was misled about her condition. Mr Gordon said that during the lunch-hour hearing. Mrs Justice Hogg had been wrongly informed that Miss S had been been in labour for 24 hours and "might die at any minute", and that she was refusing food and drink.

Mr Gordon said: "All this was untrue and is belied by the medical notes. The point is she had never been in labour."

The woman had also written three statements making clear she wanted no medical intervention, none of which

were mentioned to the judge nor was the judge told that doctors believed her fully capable of refusing consent to treatment and unaffected mentally by her medical condition. The lawyer for the hospital seeking the order also allegedly failed to tell the judge that the woman had solicitors who could have put

her wishes put forward. In the immediate aftermath of the operation, Miss S rejected the baby because of the trauma of what had happened and it had to go to foster parents for some weeks, which contributed to the delay on

lodging proceedings.
Mr Gordon said that Miss S's case was that her compulsory detention, first at Springfield Hospital, then at St George's, Tooting, was unlawful and that her transfer to St George's was done

without the necessary papers. Miss S, a health service professional, said: "It is onwards and upwards. I am disappointed in the judicial system because the point that Mrs Justice Hogg was misled seems to have been ignored. We are now considering an appeal. I believe bringing this case has raised public awareness about an issue of very great public importance."



Mariella Frostrup, left, David Baddiel, Nick Hancock and Emma Freud enter the spirit of the occasion yesterday

Red Nose Day heads for £22m target

By JOE JOSEPH

COMEDIANS, celebrities and scriptwriters launched their biannual battle yesterday to raise money for the charity Comic Relief.

The centrepiece of the appeal was an eight-hour television marathon, but few corners of the nation were untouched by red-nose hysteria. The television presenter Angus Deayton read BBC Radio 4's shipping forecast yesterday in aid of the appeal, after polling most votes from radio listeners who had telephoned a premium line to raise money for the

charity. The vote made £4,000 for Comic Relief, which hopes to raise £22 million for British and African charities.

It was the first time in 71 years that the five-minute broadcast was not read by a BBC announcer. Deayton pre-recorded the broadcast with Radio 4's chief announcer, Peter Donaldson, standing by in case of mistakes.

It is not clear what Deayton was wearing. But on ITV. Judy Finnigan, cohost of This Morning, wore a frilly pink nightie and white fluffy slippers to present classic television clips at viewers' requests, which included excerpts from Fawlty Towers and The Two Ronnies. On BBCI, the former world heavyweight champion Frank Bruno joined East-Enders actor Adam Woodyatt in the Can't Cook Won't Cook studio for a dessert-making challenge. It ended in a draw but Woodyatt, who plays Ian Beale, was left covered in chocolate sauce.

Even before the appeal began the organisers looked well on course to beat the £22 million target. By the time donation lines opened yesterday, more than £4 million had been raised through merchandising, donations and events





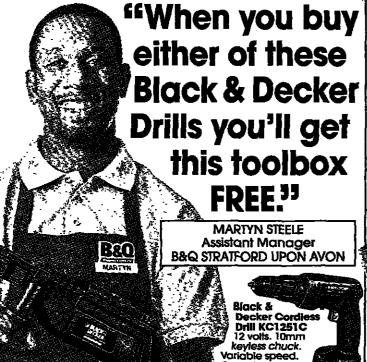
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Husband must pay crash wife

By A Staff Reporter

A WOMAN paralysed in a car crash was awarded £750,000 yesterday against her husband, who was driving. Sandra Kozikowska, 46,

won the damages in a written judgment by Lord Dawson at the Court of Session in Edinburgh. She had claimed £2 million from George Kozikowska, 44, and Highland Regional Council after the accident on a snowy Highland road in January 1990. She also claimed £100,000 each for their two children for posttraumatic stress. They were each awarded £20,000.

Mrs Kozikowska, from Dunvegan, Skye, had criticised her husband's driving and the council, claiming that its subcontractors failed to grit the icy road on which her husband had skidded. Lord Dawson cleared the council after deciding that the road had been salted and that Mr Kozikowski's driving had been the cause. He lost control on a bend and hit an oncom-

Radio host left holding the babies

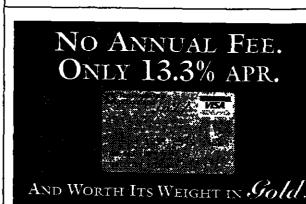
By Paul WILKINSON

A WOMAN involved in a cus- ... tody dispute over her two children left them in the studio of a late-night radio show rather than return them to their

Alan Robson, the programme presenter, found year-old boy and his nineyear-old sister, bearing a note asking: "Please look after them." Shortly afterwards, the mother called Metro Radio. based in Gateshead, to check that her children were safe. She told Robson that she did not want to return the childafter an access visit. Robson persuaded

woman to go on air, on his Night Owls show, to explain her problems. He said: "She alleged that the children wanted to stay with her, but no judge would listen to them." The children are now back with their father.

The 31-year-old mother said: "This was a last-ditch



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Peers urge action to save honey-bee from deadly mite

BY JAMES LANDALE POLITICAL REPORTER

HY MARCH 15 1949.

Radio hos

PEERS are demanding that the Government spend more time and money to tackle the varroa mite, which is threatening to devastate the honeybee population.

Honey-bees are vital not only for the E13 million honey industry but also for the pollination of crops. Bees fertilise 80 per cent of the fruit, flowers and agricultural products that need pollinating. The value of the crops is

Agriculture to be worth £6.9 billion a year to the economy. Unless the parasite Varroa jacobsoni is stopped, many farmers and fruit producers could be forced out of business, a House of Lords committee was told.

estimated by the Ministry of

The mite, which originated in the Far East and came to Britain in 1992, attacks bees both as adults and larvae. It carries a variety of viruses which can deform bees, weaken their wings and shorten their already brief lives. Without enough bees, colonies run out of food and die.

The ministry last week extended the statutory infected area to cover England and Wales. Some beekeepers have lost all their colonies. In one recent survey, the Hampshire Beekeepers Association reported losses of 70 per cent of

In a report published today, the Lords' European Communities Committee examines European Commission proposals to support beekeeping

He is a typical male Gentoo penguin at Edin-

burgh Zoo, where the colo-

ny has been so successful that a team of Scandina-

vian zoo keepers is paying

a visit this month to pick up some breeding tips for their

own birds. David Field, the man in charge of Edin-burgh's penguin enclosure, believes homo sapiens

could learn a lot as well.

Edinburgh has the world's largest captive colo-

ny of the penguins from

sub-Antarctic. The annual

breeding season starts offi-cially each Valentine's Day, when staff give the birds a broad hint by placing con-

crete nest rings, pebbles and vegetation into the enclosure to serve as gifts.

The zoo has a 50 per cent fertility rate in the Gentoo

eggs — eqtuvalent to un-wild — and up to 95 per cent

of the hatched chicks survive. Many are now sent to

zoos around the world.

"The male Gentoo penguin is the epitome of the new man," said Mr Field,

30. "He takes a full role in nest building, looking after eggs and rearing chicks."

Gentoos were very loyal and usually bred for life.

although there had been

he said. "Gentoos take

great care in making sure

their partner doesn't start to

roam. During courtship

"divorces" in Edinburgh's 106-strong colony.

- equivalent to the



Honey-bee under threat

within the Common Agricultural Policy and urges: "The impact of varroa in particular is something which beekeepers should not be expected to cope with without assistance."

The peers say that beekeepers had made a "cogent case for increased publicly-funded research on the detection and control of the disease". They note the declining ministry budget spent researching £200,000 - and urge the Government to exploit potential European jointfinancing schemes. The Government already

spends £1.5 million each year on a bee health service through the Central Science Laboratory. The peers also urged the ministry to encourage good husbandry practices among Britain's 35,000 professional and amateur beekeepers through a systematic programme of education on how to curb the parasite.

Existing treatments can partially control varroa but not eliminate the parasite. Lord Reay, chairman of the committee, said: "More research and better advice to

vegetation, like the odd

strand of grass, are given

regularly, accompanied by much bowing and cooing." Occasionally the love

birds pinch the best pebbles

from rival nests to impress each other. "The males and

females are both generous, although the males have

the edge. If men could remain quite so loyal and

continue to give presents as

the Gentoos do, it would not be a bad thing ~

although don't tell my fian-

Edinburgh Zoo has four types of penguin, in two enclosures with a 60-metre pool. The Gentoo colony.

established in 1913, is by far the largest. The birds, up to 2ft tall, are black with a

Mr Field keeps a close

watch on the chicks, even

helping some out of the shell, or giving food supple-ments to weaker ones. The

Norwegians hope their visit will help them to provide the right conditions at Bergen Aquarium. Mr Field said: "They

have about six pairs. I believe, but a lot of the eggs are infertile and they have a

high chick-mortality rate. I think a lot of our success is

down to the birds having

choices: of nest site, who they sit next to, and who

they pair with. They also

respond well to living in a

Visitors learn

from the male

with breeding

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

HE IS romantic faithful, and breeding the presenta-generous, and helpful tion of gifts is very impor-around the home. He is tant. Pebbles — the also remarkably successful rounder, flatter and shinier.

beekeepers would help the industry to avoid some of the worst problems experienced in other countries where varroa has been around for longer. Part financing from the European Union will help but must not simply be substi-tured for existing national funding."

He said a decline in beekeeping would be a "sad loss to the fabric of rural life with adverse affects on farming and the environment". Ged Marshall, a member of the Bee Farmers' Association and vice-chairman of the European working party on agriculture, said he was pleased by the Lords' support, but criticised the ministry's reluctance to spend money to help. Alan Johnson, chairman of the British Beekeepers' Associ-

ation, said he had lost more than 1,000 members over the past 18 months as a result of varroa. "I would love the extra resources," he said. "It is essential that something is

saved in the wild. Five eggs have hatched into young. delight of staff at Jersey Zoo. They are the offspring of four adult snakes flown from the Caribbean last year as part of a British-led rescue plan.

The births take the estimated population of Alsophis antiguae, which is dinging on at Great Bird Island in Antigua, to 55 specimens. Mark Day, of Fauna and Flora

International in Cambridge, which is orchestrating the rescue programme with funding from the Foreign Office, said yesterday that it was hoped to introduce the species to uninhabited islands in the area. He said that the team of conservationists was considering several Caribbean islands, including York and Redhead, where

plants and animals such as rats. Many of the snakes on Great Bird Island had been killed in the mistaken belief that they were venomous, he added. The team had also found that more than half the snakes had been injured by rats biting the tails that house their reproductive organs.



First births in captivity of world's rarest snake

BY NICK NUTTALL

THE world's rarest snake, the Antiguan racer, has been successfully bred for the first time in captivity, raising hopes that the species can be

weighing just three grams, to the

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Clunes: ironic

Paper pays for bad behaviour

THE star of the telelvision comedy Men Behaving Badly accepted £1,000 libel damages yesterday after Sir Bernard Ingham called him a "stupid, nasty, foul-mouthed, posturing juvenile with a limited command of language".

Martin Clunes said that he would donate his High Court settlement from The Express to the Aids charity. The Terence Higgins Trust.

Clunes's counsel, Manuel Barca, said that Baroness Thatcher's former press secretary, an Express columnist. had misunderstood Clunes as advocating the use of swearing on children's television. In a Radio Times interview. Clunes had noted that attitudes to swearing on television had relaxed, and ironically speculated that it would not be surprising if the "F-word" were to be acceptable on children's television in ten years.

BBC's long-playing chart show may lose No 1 slot to new kid on the block

Channel 5's latest release takes on Top of the Pops

By Alexandra Frean, media correspondent

THE world's longest-running television chart show, Top of the Pops, faces its gravest threat in 33 years as Channel 5 plans to exploit record industry unhappiness to launch a rival programme.

The new channel, which launches on March 30, will compete for top acts such as the Spice Girls, Oasis and U2 in a prime-time weekly show starting in September which will also interview stars and show videos. Dawn Airey. director of programmes, is in negotiations with the Chart Information Network, which provides the hit parade for Top of the Pops.

Record companies are al-ready backing the move because of plunging ratings for Top of the Pops since the BBC moved it last summer from its regular Thursday night slot to Friday, where it is pitched against Coronation Street. Its ratings have halved to three or four million since the move. It is still well ahead of ITV's Saturday morning video-only Chart Show, with around 1.5 million viewers, but compares poorly with its peak in the early Eighties, when audiences regularly

reached 16 million. Record companies feel they are owed a say in the pro-gramme's positioning, as they often pay to fly their artists to London to record Top of the Pops, or cover the cost of live satellité links as well as backdrops and lighting.

Gary Farrow, vice-president of communications at Sony Music UK, said: "We would welcome a new programme on Channel 5 in a big way. It is amazing that we don't have many chart-oriented shows.

"Given the success of the Brits (awards) and the music industry in general, that is surprising. The industry is far more profitable and exciting than film and fashion industries and yet it is not represented that well on television."

A spokesman for the British Phonographic Industry said: "The news media is covering pop music more now, but progammers have not yet caught up." He added that the Channel 5 programme had, huge potential because there was so little competition. "You can pick up good ratings from innovative pop music pro-

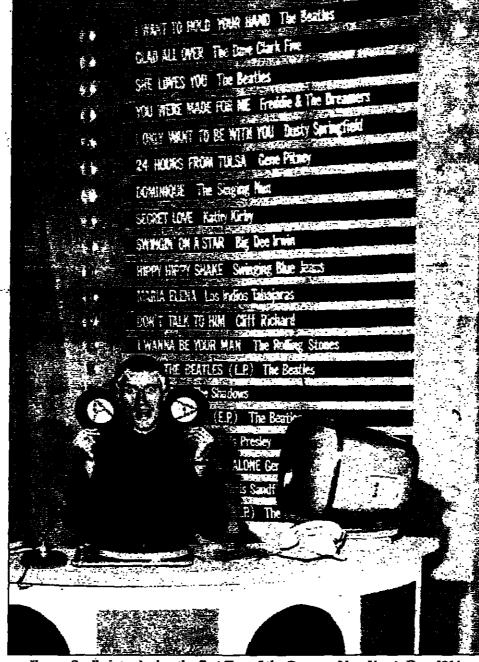
Although Channel 4 has had success with its music programme The White Room, as has BBC2 with Later With Jools Holland, there is no

mainstream prime-time pop music competitor to Top of the Pops, Ms Airey said the new programme was likely to cover the album as well as the singles chart, and may also cover other charts, such as country and dance music.

"We are working on an innovative show. It will be different from Top of the Pops and will not be studio-based. But it will not be just pop Ms Airey said. "Above all, it will run exclusives. For example, if the Spice Girls have a new video, we would want to show it first and then perhaps to do a background interview with them about the making of the video.'

Privately, some music industry insiders are hoping that the threat of competition will be enough to persuade the BBC to return Top of The Pops to Thursday nights. "Friday night is the one night when our target audience is guaranteed not to be in. They are either out or getting ready to go out when Top of the Pops is on," one source said. "We have tried persuading the BBC to move it, but they seem to want to be pig-headed about it."

Pop reviews, page 22



Jimmy Savile introducing the first Top of the Pops, on New Year's Day, 1964

hidden in badger sett The schoolgirl Zoe Evans was suffocated and her body con-

Zoe's body

cealed in a badger sett, an adjourned inquest was told. David Masters, the Wiltshire coroner, was told her body was found under bushes on . Battlesbury Hill, close to her home in army married quarters at Warminster.

Zoe, 9, went missing on. lanuary II. Her stepfather, Miles Évans, 28, a driver with the Royal Logistics Corps, is in custody charged with her murder.

Boxer accused

Herbie Hide, 25, the former WBO world heavyweight boxing champion, has been charged with two assaults causing actual bodily harm after an incident at a youth club in Norwich on Wednes-

Rape denied

Six army officers have denied raping a woman at a Wili-shire training college. Philip Bates, Ian Barlow, Matthew Tupling, Darren Bartlett, Andrew Stout and Nicholas Octtinger were given ball at Oxford Crown Court.

Shoe load stolen

Kickers shoes worth hundreds of thousands of pounds were stolen when a lorry. driver was ambushed by four men after he stopped on the A34 near Kidlington, Oxfordshire. The driver was dumped near Bakewell, Derbyshire.

Weight of the law

An 18-stone policeman has been cleared of assaulting a prisoner who jeered about his size. PC Paul Brough, 47, had denied breaking Carl Hudson's nose at Wakefield police: station. He was cleared by a jury at Leeds Crown Court.

Cat burglars

Nearly 1.000 cats' eves worth £1,800 have been stolen shortly after they were fitted to at resurfaced road. Thieves took 90 minutes to remove the reflectors from the middle of the A75 near Kirkcowan. Dumfries and Galloway.

Inspector cleared

Raymond Hansen, 53, a 16 stone police inspector, was cleared at Southwark Crown Court of indecently assaulting a receptionist. He denied "gyrating" as he squeezed past her in the doorway of a police.

Farrah's unstuck

A deal has been reached to continue Harrogate's 157-year-old toffee-making tradition after the manufacturers faced a financial crisis. Garry Marston has bought Farrah's Toffee, whose fans have included Queen Victoria.

At these prices, it won't be long before you hear the first mower of spring.



Offers subject to availability

Spielberg wins war of Herts and minds

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

HOLLYWOOD is coming to Hatfield. Steven Spielberg is to make his next film, an epic story about the Second World War, on a former aerodrome in Hertfordshire. The D-Day landings will be shot on the beaches of Norfolk.

Planning permission was tranted yesterday by Welwyn Hatfield Council for a French town - complete with a river and bridge - to be recreated for Saving Private Ryan. The actor Tom Hanks as the leader of a commando unit. Work on the set has already begun and

The chairman of the council's planning committee, Stephen Ormrod, said: 'This will provide a welcome boost for the local economy and put Hatfield back on the map. We are delighted that he has chosen Hatfield and want to do all we can to make sure everything goes well." Chris

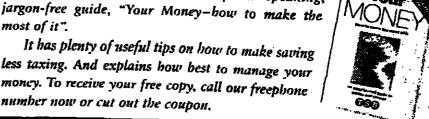
Holt, of Hertfordshire Film Link, contacted Spielberg's production company. Dream-Works, when he discovered that it had been spent nine months searching unsuccessfully for a location.

Commenting on why the film would not be made in France, he said it was cheaper to film in Britain. A spokesman for DreamWorks added: "The areas in France no longer look right. You cannot go to France in 1997 and find it looking as it did in 1944." He said that the film was about "a mother who is about

to be told that three of her four sons have been killed in action. The military decides it is too heavy a blow to give her while her fourth son is missing. In the wake of the risk their lives to find him. Tom Hanks is the leader of the party. It is based loosely on an happened."

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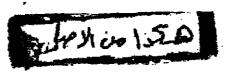
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Scientists to wave **Union Jack with** top 2,000 products

millennium with 2.000 new British products has been given Government support. Launching a week of science, engineering and technology yesterday, Ian Taylor, the Science Minister, announced that the Government had allocated £3.33 million over the next four years to the Mil-Product Awards

The idea, proposed by the Design Council, is to identify 2,000 outstanding products or services between now and 2000 and to display them as part of the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich, southeast London.

"In this way Britain will send out a strong message to the world that we are, and will continue to be, a major industrial nation, able to create inspiring and commercially successful products and services," Mr Taylor said.

National Science Week officially known as SET97 —

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A SCHEME to mark the will be bigger than ever this wrong decisions?" Scientists at year, with some 6,000 events planned. It begins today and

runs through next week.

The idea is to stimulate interest in science, technology and engineering and to show that they are relevant to people's daily lives. Schools, universities, museums, industrial companies, leisure and shopping centres and local and national government will contribute.

Today, for example, a 30ftlong model of a dinosaur will be assembled from "bones" made out of wood by Cambridge secondary school children. The stegosaurus will be assembled at Sedgwick Museum between 10am and 4.30pm as part of Cambridge University's contribution to SET97. Cambridge is also staging a

series of talks, open days and interactive events. These will address questions ranging from "Is the missing link still missing?" to "Why do cricket umpires sometimes make

the Natural History Museum in London will be available in its Central Hall today and tomorrow between llain and 4pm to discuss their work.

Another main attraction is at the Old Royal Observatory in Greenwich, which is offering the first public opportunity for more than a decade to view the stars through Britain's largest refracting telescope.

The BBC Television pro-

gramme Tomorrows World has organised an exhibition at National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham next Wednesday, and on Friday and Saturday Manchester University will host a Science Fair at which teams from schools will compete to represent Britain at an international fair in Kentucky in May.

□ Every area has locally organised events: details from the Science Line. 0345 , 600 441 (Ipm-7pm weekdays),

www.britassoc.org.uk



Memorial at last for hero who turned tide of history

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE heroism of a Victoria Cross winner is to be honoured with a church memorial today, 100 years after his burial in an unmarked plot. The commemoration has been organised by a major who believes that Alfred Ablett may have changed

Ablett saved hundreds of lives in the Crimean War when he picked up a delayhurled it from an ammunition trench just before it exploded. buried at St Andrew's Church in Weybread, Suffolk.

Major Frank Clark, chair-man of the Suffolk branch of the Grenadier Guards Association, organised a memorial service to unveil a white ing Ablett's life for a book and finding no sign of his grave. He said: "If that bomb had exploded in the ammunition dump, it could have killed hundreds and held up the attack on Sebastopol. Other men might well have run like hell to get out of the way. Eventually the fall of Sebastopoi led to the end of the Crimean War. The course of

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Ablett: family could not afford headstone

could have been changed by Ablett's bravery." Ablett, a brickmaker's son from Weybread, was a 26year-old private in the 3rd battalion of the Grenadier Guards in 1855 when the British and French allies were attacking the Russian strong-hold of Sebastopol. He was promoted to sergeant and awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Two years later, he was included among the first 62 recipients given the

award was inaugurated. Ablett was invalided out of the Grenadier Guards in 1862. handicapped with acute rheu-

VC retrospectively when the

frostbite and fever he suffered in the Crimea. He became a drill sergeant with the Norfolk Rifle Volunteers militia before moving to London, where he worked as a labourer and a hall porter at a gentlemen's club. He then served 26 years in the Miliwali docks police force, rising again to the rank of sergeant. He married twice and had six children, all named after Crimea battles.

He died from a heart attack at the age of 67 and his body was taken by train to Weybread for the funeral on March 18, 1897. Although he was buried with military honours, his family could not afford a gravestone. His VC was sold by a descendant for £62 in 1900 and is now with his other medals in the Grenadier headquarters at Welling-

ton Barracks, London. Today's ceremony will be attended by Grenadier Guards and by at least 17 of Sergeant Ablett's descendants, including some greatgreat-great-grandchildren. Kathleen Acland, 64, of Hawkhurst, Kent, a greatgranddaughter, said: "We are delighted that his bravery is being recognised."

Driver who | BA creates killed TV actress gets 15 months

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SPEEDING motorist who hit and killed a teenage actress was jailed for 15 months at the Old Bailey yesterday. Christine Strain, 15, who

had appeared in EastEnders, was hit from behind at up to 55mph by Darren Rose, whose car was on the wrong side of the road after rounding a bend. She died of multiple injuries.

Rose, 24, of Forest Hill, southeast London, an administrative officer for Westminster council, was convicted last month of causing death by dangerous driving on November 4. 1995. He was also banned yesterday from driving for three years. As he was led away, relatives of the dead

girl shouted: "Is this justice?" Earlier, David Martin-Sperry, for the prosecution. with two she was schoolfriends in Walworth. southeast London, when she was struck from behind by Rose's sports saloon, Rose was quite simply on the wrong side of the road", and skid marks indicated he was doing at least 50mph in the

30mph limit zone. Rose had said that it was an error of judgment on his part and that he did not spot the

700 jobs in shift to **Gatwick**

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 700 permanent jobs are to be created by British Airways at Gatwick by the summer to meet the surge in demand for scheduled business flights. The jobs include cabin crew, passenger services and ground staff. A further 200 temporary posts will be created. BA says that many could become permanent.

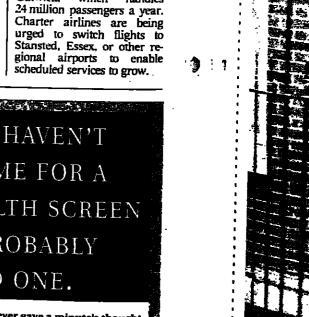
The airline is switching dozens of scheduled flights to the West Sussex airport because Heathrow, which handles 55 million passengers a year, is overcrowded. Next month it will fly to more destinations from Gatwick than it does from Heathrow. On Monday it transfers all its Laun American services - to Argentina, Brazil, Colombia - to Gatwick. It is also introducing new services to

and Pisa. is now being echoed at Gatwick, which handles Stansted, Essex, or other re-



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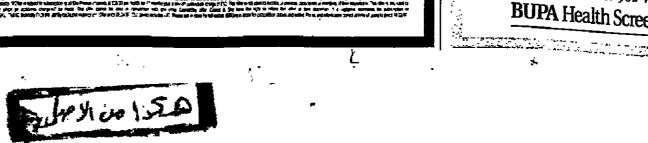
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MPs pledge fight to hold on to influence as activists vent frustration at ministerial gaffes

Tories press ahead with plans to widen leadership vote

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative Party is to Formal consultation would press ahead with plans to change the rules for chonsing its leader that would give party activists a vote for the

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The National Union Executive Committee, the voluntary wing of the party, has already circulated draft proposals to constituency chairmen under which ordinary members would have 20 per cent of the vote, with the rest going to MPs. The changes in party organisation, to be implemented after the general elec-tion, would be the most radical since Edward Heath won the leadership in 1965 in the first

secret ballot of Tory MPs.
At present, only MPs can take part in leadership elections, but yesterday Robin Hodgson, chairman of the national union, told delegates at the Central Council meeting in Bath that he intended to put forward the proposals, which also include changes to increase the number of women MPs, after the election. During a private session at the meeting. Mr Hodgson gave a progress report on the changes, which have also been considered by Central Office, and signalled his determination to give activists a greater say in running the

He said that they could be in

take place within the party after the election and the plans would then go to next year's

Central Council for approval. The rules would favour the present incumbent, although it is unlikely that John Major would be able to benefit from the changes if the Tories were badly defeated at the election. Most insiders expect a leadership contest in November if Labour sweeps to victory on May 1. Two separate options are now being put forward by

Major hint on TV debate

JOHN MAJOR gave a strong indication yesterday that he was ready to face Tony Blair in a television debate (Philip Webster writes). In an interview with the Westera Daily Press, he said it was a question of how the debate would be conducted by the media: "I believe they are discussing it with all the parties. I am happy for those discussions to go ahead."

Mr Major is opposed to a three-way debate, but accepts that some arrangement would be needed for the Liberal Democrats. One rate debate with Paddy

the national union. Under the first, said to be supported by Mr Hodgson, an electoral college would be set up, with party activists immediately receiving 20 per cent of the

A second option is initially to give the 200 members of the National Union Executive Committee a 20 per cent share of the vote. Once a register of party members had been set up, the scheme would transfer to the total membership.

Other proposals the national union will put forward include dividing would-be Tory candidates into A and B lists, with the latter restricted to applying for seats in their own regions. Under another plan, Conservative associations would have to surrender their exclusive right to choosing candidates by allowing Central Office to impose candidates, many of whom would be women, for interview.

MPs have already signalled that they will fight the proposals, which reduce their own influence, moth and nail. The Tory backbench 1922 Committee said earlier this year that the changes would never happen. But the plans are said to have the support of Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, even though relations between party headquarters and the grassroots have not



Brown wants to raise taxes in July, says Clarke

By Philip Webster, political editor

"nightmare" of a tax-raising Labour Budget in July, as he derided Gordon Brown's claims that he could keep to his spending plans.

The Chancellor, speaking to the Conservative Central Council in Bath, was the first of several Cabinet ministers at the last big party gathering before the election openly to concede the possibility of a Labour government, in order to highlight the dangers it could present.

Deriding Mr Brown's claim that he could be as tough as Mr Clarke on spending, he said: "Gordon, you can put on a Liverpool football shirt if you want, but it won't make you Robbie Fowler. You can put on a mini-skirt, but it won't make you a Spice Girl." Referring to his favourite footwear, he added: "You can put on suede shoes, but it won't make you a successful Chancellor."

Mr Clarke asked how people could trust a party that planned a Budget within ten weeks of an election and yet would not give any details. He said the public should realise that, if it voted for Labour, it would not get Conservative polícies.

There was no option marked Tory policies, Lab-our men", he said. "If you vote Labour, you call a halt to taxcutting, you vote for higher spending, you give more powers to the unions, you have a

KENNETH CLARKE gave social chapter and you stop warning yesterday of the privatisation." He said Mr Brown knew that he would have to introduce an emergency Budget because his figures did not add up. He would be told by the Treasury that, because of the lack of privatisation receipts, increase in local authority capital spend-ing and other commitments, he would need an extra £12 billion over two years.

By having a swift Budget, Mr Brown intended to put the blame on the previous Government. "What does anyone imagine Tony Blair and Gordon Brown are promising a July Budget for? Do they want an emergency Budget to reduce taxes? To create incentives? To reward enterprise? You must be kidding. They need a July Budget to put taxes up. Not just the windfall tax other taxes, too, to fill the £12 billion hole in their finances. Enough of this nightmare."

Mr Clarke was in equally bouyant mood as he toured the Royal Mint to watch the new lightweight 50p piece being made. He forecast that he would still have his job when the coin goes into circulation in September. "I intend to do my present job for many vears to come," he said.

The Chancellor, who has the ancient title of Master of the Mint, said that he hoped the factory at Llantrisant, South Wales, would produce the euro coin, whether or not

Currie's warning over succession enrages party's foot soldiers tives can present a united front in



Currie: said that factions were being formed

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EDWINA CURRIE'S pronouncement yesterday that John Major should resign the party leadership quickly if he loses the general election was the last straw for Tory activists attending the Conservative Central Council.

The party's foot soldiers arriving in Bath were already furious over an interminable succession of ministerial gaffes when the former Health Minister told Radio 4's The *World at One* that it would be a dis-

aster if Mr Major decided to stay on as Tory leader after an election defeat. The result would be pro-longed strife in the party. Mrs Currie said, adding that factions backing potential leadership candi-

dates were already forming. Publicly, the Tory stalwarts in Bath claim they are confident of victory. They insist that, come polling day, the electorate will "come to its senses" and see off new Labour. Privately, most tell a different story. They believe that they are heading for defeat, and are prepared to

speculate about the size of Labour's majority.

The more optimistic hope for a hung Parliament, possibly leading to another election within a year after Labour has had time to "show its true colours".

Most of the Tory activists do not hesitate when asked why they are facing defeat: after 18 years, people want a change. They blame a hostile media and the perversity of voters for the fact that they are not reaping the electoral rewards of economic sucesss. "If people choose

to ignore the fact that they are doing well, there is not much we can do about it." said one.

But there is also frustration that the hard work of constituency activists is being undermined by infighting at Westminster. Mrs Currie's comments pro-

voked dishelief and fury. "She can go and boil her head," said one woman. "This is Edwina's latest piece of fiction," said another. It is the latest in a series of incidents that have left many activ-

ists without hope that the Conserva-

One constituency vice-chairman said: "We keep shooting ourselves in the foot ... I'd like to tell them to get their act together."

self-serving.

volution and a minimum wage, and

Lord Tebbit describing Michael

Heseltine's conduct as tacky and

Some believed that ruling out British membership of a single European currency "would help

put clear blue water between us and Labour". the rum-up to the election. In recent weeks they have had to cope with Sir Edward Heath supporting de-

There was irritation at campaign tactics. "Why haven't we gone for Prescott more?" asked one activist. 'We must concentrate on 'phoney Tony," said another.

Confusion about the party's intended message was evident. One woman said that there was no point voting Labour if you wanted change because "they are just the same as the Conservatives now. She then claimed that, in power, Labour would revert to socialism.



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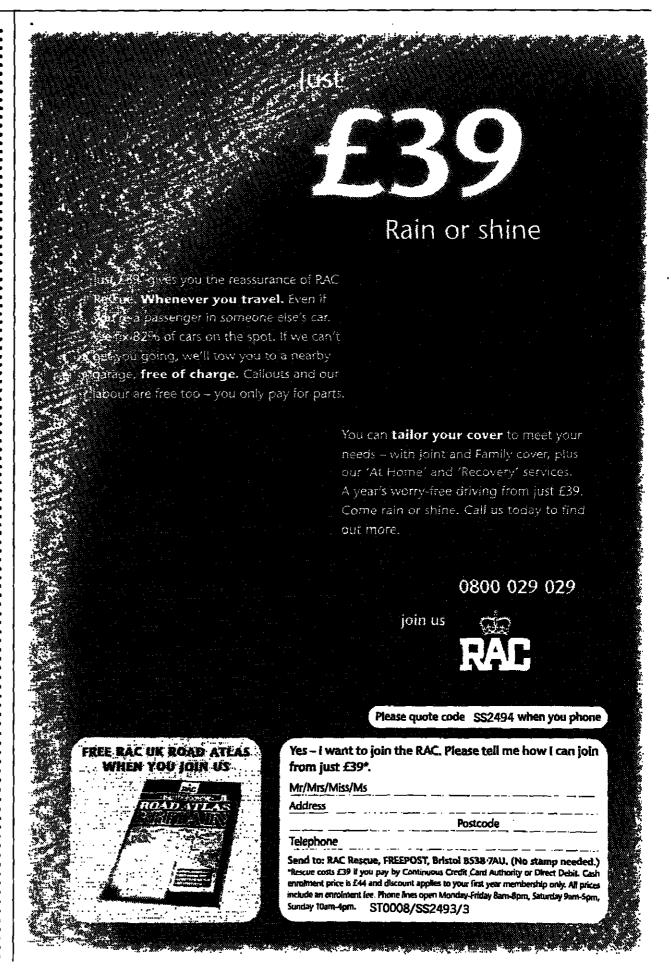
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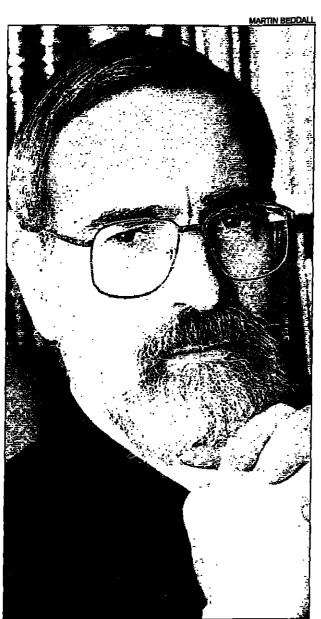
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Sacks calls for peace as Jewish schism widens



Rabbi Jonathan Sacks felt "betrayed" by the leak

Sacks, is calling on the Jewish community to end public bickering after the leaking of a letter in which he describes the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn, the leading reformist, as "one of those who destroys the faith".

Leaders of the Reform movement, however, appeared to reject Dr Sacks's appeal yesterday when they called on him to renounce his title and adopt the more limited one of Leader of Orthodox Jews. They blame the Chief Rabbi's remarks about Dr Gryn for much of the recent public rancour between members of the Orthodox and Reform traditions.

Dr Sacks said: "I am determined to put an end to attempts to disrupt our community." He set out a sevenpoint plan to stop Jews attacking and denigrating each other in public. "Internal debates over is-

sues such as Rabbi Gryn have been taken as an opportunity by Jews to attack other Jews in the public media. This has dismayed all Jews, particular-

■ The simmering dispute between Reform and Orthodox Jews has erupted again over a leaked letter, Daniel McGrory reports

and condemns the leaking of a

private letter as a "scandalous

betrayal". It was written to

Dayan Chanoch Padwa, head

of the Union of Orthodox

Hebrew Congregations. In it

he says: "Only your Honour

can know what conflict I

experience in praising a per-

son who is amongst those who destroy the faith." He says the

Reform, Liberal and Masorti movements know "they have

no enemy or opponent equal to the Chief Rabbi".

Sacks to renounce his title,

saying: "Today could signal a

break between the Chief Rabbi

and a sizeable percentage of

British Jewry. Clearly, he no longer represents all Jews and

Rabbi Jonathan Romain, of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, called on Dr

ly the young, and has tarnished our image in the eyes of the non-Jewish world. It must stop." He invites his rivals to join what he calls a "coalition for peace in the community".

Dr Gryn's widow, Jacqueline, said yesterday that she was "distressed beyond words" at the Chief Rabbi's description of her husband in the letter, which was leaked to the Jewish Chronicle. She said: "My husband

dedicated his life to the service of the Jewish people and humanity in general. He lived by the creed that we should fight for a society that is pluralistic and tolerant and which cherishes peace above all. This is a travesty of his vision and causes divisiveness in the entire Anglo-Jewish community, the last thing he would have wanted."

Writing in the Jewish

sector. He no more represents Reform and Liberal Jews than does the Archbishop of Canterbury represent Catholics and Methodists." Rabbi Tony Bayfield, chief Chronicle yesterday. Dr Sacks praises Dr Gryn as "a man of courage and deep humanity"

executive of the Reform Move-ment, said: "We are deeply distressed, most of all because of the pain it occasions the Gryn family and how it continues to drag the name of a great rabbi and a marvellous Jewish reacher through the mud. We are astonished and saddened by the language the Chief Rabbi uses. We were not aware that he was fighting a battle against us."

speaks only for the Orthodox

The Reform movement is still simmering from the strong emotions aroused when Dr Sacks failed to attend Dr Gryn's funeral last year. His decision to speak at a memorial meeting for Dr Gryn was condemned by ulfeared his presence would lend authority to the progressive movement.

Leading article, page 25



Ancient Hebrew blamed for letter row

THE dispute was fuelled by the ancient Hebrew language used by the Chief Rabbi in his confidential letter. Supporters of the Reform movement were unhappy with the expressions Dr Sacks used when referring to the late Rabbi Gryn. The Chief Rabbi said that some of the misunderstanding was due to the archaic idioms of rabbinical Hebrew.

However. Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok said yesterday: "He was not simply trapped by the linguistic constraints of rabbinical Hebrew and could have expressed himself with more restraint if he had wanted."

Hebrew academics explained that rabbinical Hebrew developed out of and alongside biblical Hebrew. It utilises the vocabularly of biblical Hebrew but has expanded its range of words so that it is much more extensive. The syntax is substantially extended under the influence of Aramaic. Various grammatical features have been introduced into

rabbinical Hebrew that are not present in the Hebrew Bible.

Dr Sacks says that rabbinical Hebrew uses hyperbole rather than understate-ment, which at times sounds archaic and in which some words or phrases -notably those such as "shame and falsehood" or "false grouping" — are idioms that cannot be translated in such a way fairly to reflect the far milder language that would have been employed in modern English.

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Crede Carnival holds a message of hope Dan Cohn-Sherbok

ews will soon celebrate the festival of Purim. This day of joy commemorates the triumph of the Jews over their foes in ancient times. As the Book of Esther recounts, King Ahasureus's chief minister, Haman, sought to destroy the Jewish people. Through the intervention of Esther,

the King's consort, his plans vere foiled. In most congregations, Purim resembles a carnival, children frequently attending the reading from the Scroll of Esther in fancy dress and, whenever Haman's name is mentioned, worshippers stamp their feet and whirl noisemakers. Despite the merriment of the occasion, the story of Purim has deep significance for the Jewish people. Repeatedly in its history, Jewry has been persecuted and massacred. Yet, Phoenix-like, the Jewish community has arisen from the ashes of devastation to flourish once

The writings of Emil Fackenheim, the Jewish theologian, bear eloquent testimony to this quest for survival. In his view, God was with his people in the death camps, and out of the crematoria of Auschwitz issued a further commandment. This 614th commandment - added to the 613 in the Torah — is directed to the post-Holocaust Jewish community: Jews are forbidden to hand Hitler posthumous vic-

the Jewish people perish. They are commanded to remember the victims of Auschwitz lest their memory perish. They are forbidden to despair of man and his world, and to escape into either cynicism or otherworldliness, lest they cooperate in delivering the world over to the forces of

Auschwitz. world, the festival of Purim echoes this message of hope: the Book of Esther declares that God will not abandon his people. When Haman sought to wipe out the Jews, his plot was uncovered and the Jewish people were saved. And so it has been through the centuries. As God's suffering servant, we have been rejected, despised and led as a lamb to the slaughter. Yet, for nearly 4,000 years, our tiny nation

has continued to exist. Purim symbolises this fierce determination to survive against all odds. As Jewry stands on the threshold of the 21st century, Purim's message of hope should serve as its mainstay. Only in this way will the Jewish people, who have experienced the Valley of the Shadow of Death, be able to say in the ancient words of the Psalmist: "I shall fear no evil for thou art

☐ Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok teaches at the University of Kent, Canterbury, and is a Visiting Professor of Judaism at the

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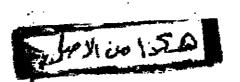
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Somerset House to open its doors as people's palace

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THE glories of Somerset House are to be opened to the public for the first time, more than two centuries after it was built as a virtual palace for Government departments.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, announced yesterday that the central London building would be fully restored and transformed into a centre for art and culture. The quadrangle - currently a Civil Service car park - and the magnificent 860ft South Terrace overlooking the Thames will be pedestrianised as a natural link between Covent Garden and the Embankment.

Much of the intricate architecture of Somerset House, which dominates the eastern part of the Strand, has been hidden from public view since it was built in the 1770s by Sir William Chambers as a classical Government building. It is home to the Inland Revenue and Lord Chancellor's department, and was best known for holding records of births and marriages. Sir Tim Sainsbury, MP,

chairman of a new independent trust which will lease the building, said: "Somerset House is one of the finest buildings in London, relatively unaltered with a magnificent river front, yet it is largely unseen. The courtyard is usually seen only if you walk across it to get your

The Royal Academy, the Royal Society, the Society of

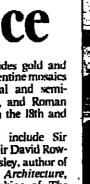


Sir William Chambers:

Antiquaries, the Poor Law Commissioners and the Sea-men's Registry have all occupied its splendid rooms in the past 200 years. The Lord Chancellor's department will soon be relocated. The Inland Revenue, which today occupies the South block, is expected to remain.

Some rooms became accessible when the Courtauld Institute Galleries were installed in the Strand block in 1990. The rest of the building remains shut with many rooms lying empty.

Sir Tim said that plans were being considered to use the building for public functions and exhibitions. A restaurant may also be built. Work was unlikely to be completed before the end of the century. One of the first tasks of the Somerset House Trust will be to oversee the installation of the £75 million Gilbert Collection, donated to the nation by the multimillionaire Arthu



Gilbert, It includes gold and silverware, Florentine mosaics made of natural and semiprecious stones, and Roman ornaments from the 18th and

19th centuries.

Trustees will include Sir Jeremy Isaacs, Sir David Rowland. Giles Worsley, author of Perspectives on Architecture, and Simon Jenkins of The Times, who has fought a long campaign to open Somerset House to the public.

A spokesman for the Heritage Department said: The Somerset House Trust will take over from Government the overall responsibility for the whole of Somerset House. The trust would have as its objective the care and stewardship of the building, with a view to restoring it fully and turning part of the building into an improved centre for art and culture with greatly increased public access and



Closed to outsiders: early view of the building where even today "the courtyard is usually seen only if you walk across it to get your divorce"



Stepping into the open: the five-storey Navy staircase



Fund-raising

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Russian military alliance to check march of Taleban

By Christopher Thomas, south asia correspondent

RUSSIA and three frontline Central Asian states are planning to raise two armed divisions for deployment on the borders of Alghanistan.

It is the first official armed response by neighbouring countries to the apparently unstoppable march of the extremist Taleban Islamic militia, which has conquered three-quarters of Afghanistan.

from Afghanistan. Central Asian countries have become directly involved in the Afghan civil war by supporting the last two big forces oppos-ing Taleban, whose troops are expected to begin pushing into the north in the spring

The defence ministers of Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan met recently to discuss the threat of Islamic extremism spreading

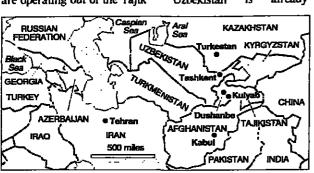
Tajikistan is assisting Ahmed Shah Masood, the Tajik militia leader who controls much of northeastern Afghanistan. Taleban has destroyed almost all his airbases and his fighter and transport planes are operating out of the Tailk

to enter Tajikistan.

ood to use its territory without Moscow's agreement. Russia is supplying weaponry to Gen-eral Abdul Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek leader of northern Afghanistan. Iran. an opponent of the mainly Sunni Taleban, supports General Dostum financially.

been captured in Kashmir. Uzbekistan has sealed its border with Afghanistan, fearing a tide of up to 500,000 refugees if Taleban attacks the north. Tajikistan has said it will not allow Afghan refugees

is already Uzbekistan



city of Kulyab. This could threatened by Islamic extremism, which would be bolstered provide a pretext for Taleban by the arrival of Taleban on Tajikistan is unlikely to the Afghan border. All the Central Asian states could be

have allowed General Masdestabilised by its proximity, leading to greater military involvement by Russia. Russia and the former Soviet states - excluding Turkmenistan, which is neutral - may expand their collective security pact to establish a military coalition designed specifically to re-

India provides material support to the ousted government of President Rabbanni and General Masood. Delhi is worried that Taleban might become directly involved in Muslim Kashmir. Separatist Kashmiri terrorists have received training in Afghanistan and Afghan gunmen have

into its territory.

however, could be devastating, stretching from Xinjiang in China's extreme north west to the Black Sea.

Beijing: President Jiang Zemin of China is to visit Moscow next month to sign a pact to reduce troops along its border with Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Regional peace could lead to China's annual trade with Russia doubling by the end of the century from about £6 billion this year. (Reuter)

pulse any armed threat by Taleban, which is funded by

Saudi Arabia and supported

by Pakistan.
The United States quietly

backs Taleban, although there

is no evidence of direct sup-

port. This is not the first time it

has backed Islamic extremists;

it funded the Mujahidin war

Union and is now hoping

Taleban will impose peace on

the country so US companies

can gain economic access to

Central Asia. The regional

impact of a Taleban victory.

against the former Soviet



An injured President Clinton is carried to Air Force One yesterday at Palm Beach international airport

Clinton's golf handicap suffers in fall

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

HOPES of a weekend spree with his golfing hero were shattered for President Clinton last night after he tore a tendon at Greg Norman's Florida estate, was taken to Washington for surgery and faced the prospect of weeks on

After regaling his host with golfing stories into the early hours, the President slipped on irregular steps leading to his guest cottage and tore the quadriceps tendon in his right

"He remembers his right leg buckling out. he heard a loud pop and a shooting

pain." Captain Connie Mariano, the presidential physi-cian, said. He stayed overnight in a West Palm Beach hospital before being flown in Air Force One to Bethesda Naval Hospital, where he was being operated on yesterday.

Although the accident was certain to complicate Mr Clinton's schedule for a few days. it was not expected to affect either the planned summit with President Yeltsin in Finland next week or his wife's trip to Africa today. Despite speculation in America about the President's ability to con-tinue his official duties, his

fall did little more than ruin a long-planned weekend away from the fundraising controversies of Washington.

He was expected to be given an epidural injection yesterday before doctors drilled two holes in his knee to re-attach the tendon. Asked before leaving Florida whether he would be fit enough for the Helsinki summit. Mr Clinton replied:

The President had been planning his sojourn at Mr Norman's Tranquillity estate for weeks. Hillary Clinton. who had already planned her own trip abroad, was said to

have given her husband the green light and his press aides had described the President as "rhapsodic" at the prospect. Since playing golf with Mr Norman in Australia last year, the two men are said to have become firm friends. On his arrival in Florida, the presidential helicopter landed on a fairway and Mr Clinton

present from the golfer. He had been due to play in a two-day tournament at the Medallist course owned by Mr Norman, where the initia-

practised some shots with a

set of Cobra irons, a recent

Britons on barge released

Lebed could could could into ne

Paris: Twenty foreign oil workers, including three Britons, held hostage on a barge in Nigeria by jobless tribesmen were freed without violence after the Nigerian Navy boarded the craft off the town of Warri on Thursday (Ben

Macintyre writes). The French oil contractor ETPM, which owns the vessel, said that the barge's 90 passengers, who included 16 Frenchmen, three British divers and an American, were unharmed

Cost of news

New York: A record 185 journalists were in prison in 24 countries last year, with 78 of them in Turkish jails alone. the Committee to Protect Journalists, said in its annual report. Twenty-seven journal-ists were killed in the line of duty, 26 of whom were murdered (Reuter)

Duke's rebuke

Tokyo: The Duke of Edinburgh chided Japan for its niggardly contribution to global conservation and said the country ought to make a greater effort to protect the environment (Robert Whymant writes). He is on a visit as president emeritus of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Cosby charge

Mikail Markhasev, 18. a Russian emigré, was charged with the murder of Ennis Cosby. only son of Bill Cosby, the American comic actor (Quentin Letts writes). He was arrested in Los Angeles this week after an informer contacted a newspaper, hoping to claim a £63.000 reward.

Comoros revolt

Moroni: Secessionists on Anjouan island in the Comoros stormed the airport. grounding an aircraft, on the third day of a general strike which is rapidly turning into open rebellion. (Reuter).

Congressman calls for impeachment inquiries over Democrats' funding

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A REPUBLICAN member of Congress has asked for impeachment inquiries to be opened against President Clinton and Al Gore, the Vice-President, over the Democrats' fundraising abuses.

The request was made in a letter from Bob Barr of Georgia, a strong conservative, to Henry Hyde, chairman of the House judiciary committee. Mr Hyde said vesterday that he was reviewing the letter and would respond to Mr Barr's request in due course. In other words, impeachment is still merely being floated on

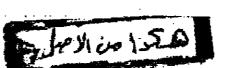
Capitol Hill and Republicans will wait to see if the idea gains momentum. Several congressional sources felt it was premature to consider an impeachment inquiry until results were known from four other investigations.

In another move against the President, Republicans on both the

House and Senate judiciary com-mittees asked Janet Reno, his Attorney-General, to appoint an independent counsel to investigate allegations of illegal fundraising during Mr Clinton's re-election campaign. If Miss Reno still insists that there is no need, she must give her reasons to the two committees.

Impeachment would be a very serious step leading to a trial by the Senate and upon conviction by a two-thirds majority, removal from office. A decision by the judiciary committee to refer three articles of impeachment to the full Congress in 1974 finally forced Richard Nixon to resign over Watergate. The Constitution says "treason, bribery and other high crimes and misdemeanours" are grounds for impeachment. The fundraising issue has included allegations that national security interests were compromised and foreign powers, notably China, tried to buy influence over foreign-policy decisions.





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Lebed says strikes could drag nation into new civil war

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ALEKSANDR LEBED, Russia's general turned presidential hopeful, said yesterday that growing discontent throughout the nation threatened to plunge the country into Albanian-style anarchy.

In a solemn speech to supporters of his newly founded political party, the popular former paratrooper predicted that nationwide strikes planned for this month could trigger a new civil war. "March 27 could mark a decisive stage in the crisis of the powers that be, with a move to chaos and anarchy in the country," he said at the Russian Popular Republican Party's opening congress.

The Afghan war veteran said that in the present climate of public dissatisfaction with the Government's disastrous social policies and its failure to pay wages and pensions, one spark could ignite outright revolt. "One victim and that is it," he said. "The authorities have their hands free to introduce a state of emergency and it is already the first step towards a suicidal civil war. We would win it, but we do not need this kind of war.

Let little Albania become an example to us, to huge Rus-

sia," he said. "The President ran off in some unknown direction, the army declares its neutrality. It would not de-clare its neutrality here."

The general gave a warning about the threat of mutiny in the armed forces last year, but his predictions failed to materialise. Critics argued that his alarmist speech yesterday was a desperate attempt to main-tain his public profile. The former national security adviser, who was dismissed last year by President Yeltsin for insubordination, has been eclipsed by the Russian leader, who appears to have returned to full-time work.

At a press conference after the speech, however, General Lebed dismissed the Kremlin keader's return to work as a "swan song" and said flatly that the Russian Government would fall apart this year. "Government will simply collapse," he said. "It will collapse just as its |Soviet| predecessors collapsed in 1991. This is inevitable. This will happen in 1997. We see our main task in preventing the dead from clutching the living. We must be ready to grasp power as it collapses."

While some dismiss this

scenario as wishful thinking, General Lebed's apocalyptic trawler. Boguslaw Liberadzki, predictions may prove pro-phetic. Despite Mr Yeltsin's

new-found vigour, an Australian diplomatic report published yesterday in The Sydney Morning Herald said that the Russian leader has Parkinson's disease. The report quoted the remarks of Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, who apparently "mim-icked" the Russian leader's shaky condition after a meeting in December, Mr Li told his ambassador, who shared his observations with other

Asian envoys.
In addition to the fresh health concerns, there is in-creasing frustation in the armed forces over the failure of the authorities to pay wages and provide basic living standards. There is also growing anger among those millions of workers and pensioners who have gone for months without their pay.

Yesterday Mr Yeltsin promised that under a new streamlined Cabinet, the Government would have "new, fresh ideas". Critics, however, say that most of the main figures from the last Government will

diplomatic team has been working non-stop to resolve the issue. Poland has filed a protest and Leszek Miller, the Interior Minister, has already made one trip to Moscow. Moscow has accused the

and crew are still in custody.

attacked

FROM PATRICIA KOZA

IN WARSAW

darity Union in the 1980s.

Russian

ordered

trawler of fishing in a forbidden area, but a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Poland is "absolutely sure" no laws or treaties were violated.

A senior government official who requested anonymity said the incident reflects the turmoil within Russia, where Mr Chernomyrdin is attempting to form a new government. Mr Liberadzki, however,

suggested that the incident may be an attempt to provoke Poland into retaliating, so that Moscow could cast Warsaw in a bad light in forthcoming negotiations on the latter's application to join Nato.

☐ Gdansk protest: About 2,000 workers from the bankrupt Gdansk shipyard marched on the Mayor's office in a third day of protests at the closing of the yard.



Case H do 1550

Peter Blake, leader of the New Zealand yachting team, holders of the America's Cup, inspects damage done to the trophy yesterday after a Maori independence activist wielding a sledgeham-mer attacked it at the Auckland headquarters of the Royal New Zealand

Assault on yacht trophy

Yacht Squadron. The attack left the Victorian trophy with a squashed and dented middle section and a bent spout (Pattrick Smellie in

Wellington writes). The cup was locked in a bank vault while arrangements were being made to ship it to its original manufacturers, the London silversmiths Garrards. Last night the firm said it would be "an

Zairean conflict endangers rhinos

FROM DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI

THE northern white rhino of Africa is probably the rarest large mammal on earth. Hunted to the brink of extinction for its horn, it now faces a new and potentially lethal danger: civil war

Its only habitat, Garamba National Park, in northern Zaire, has been occupied in turn by the warring sides. leaving conservationists un-

able to continue their work.
At the forefront of attempts to save this rare animal is the British branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature. Garamba is now part of a vast swath of Zairean territory held by rebels of the Democratic Alliance for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, who are trying to overthrow President

Mobutu. "It's not so much that the rebels themselves pose a danger to the rhinos," said Fraser Smith, the Briton in charge of the WWF's Garamba project. "But, because the patrolling and monitoring have been disrupted, we can't protect the animals from peachers. I'm really concerned for the rhinos' safety now".

No more than 31 northern white rhinos live in the wild. all at Garamba, although there are nine in zoos in California and the Czech Republic. Since five rhinos have not been seen within the last six months, the total could be as low as 26. According to one assessment, between two and four animals will be poached this year if the necessary support is not provided.

There has been no effective management of the park, an area about the size of Northumberland, since December. The Zairean Army occupied the park in January and rehels set up a base there last month. Among the conservation measures most affected will be a programme to implant radio transmitters in the rhinos'

'Words of Christ' are found

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

SCRAPS of papyrus which may carry previously un-known utterances by Jesus Christ caused controversy in Berlin yesterday.

The claim has been made by two American professors, Paul Mirecki of the University of Kansas and Charles Hedrich of Missouri, who say they have literally pieced together some Coptic texts which add up to a lost gospel.

Jesus wanted to be crucified; he was waiting impatiently for the cross," says Professor Hedrich on the basis of one of the pieces of text which are supposed to depict a conversation between Christ after his resurrection and a Apocrypha, which has not



A scrap of the Coptic text

disciple. The papyrus fragments found in the Egyptian Museum of Berlin — there are two big chunks and about 30 scraps the size of a postage stamp — are said to be from the fourth or fifth centuries. The Coptic text may date from an earlier time. The researchers see similarities with the

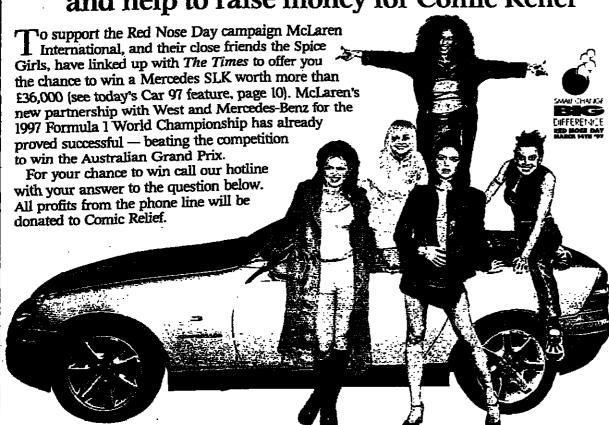
been integrated into the main biblical canon. The texts were plainly compiled by gnostics who flourished in the eastern Mediterranean between the second and third centuries.

One fragment quotes Jesus as saying: "He who is close to me is close to the fire. He who is far from me is far from life." Another scrap quotes him as saying: "Knowledge and not faith leads to salvation."

The gnostic use of the word "knowledge" was different from present usage, says Rainer Kampling, a Catholic scholar of Berlin's Free University. "For them, knowledge was the secret, mystical teaching of the initiated." He says the scraps do not comprise a lost gospel. Other sceptics cast doubt on the discovery.

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Spice Girls, who are donating the proceeds of their No 1 hit Who Do You Think You Are? to Comic Relief, hope to be at the Grand Prix.

Call our hotline, above, before midnight on Saturday March 22 with the answer to this question:

How much money has Comic Relief raised in its five previous Red Nose Days? a) £100 million b) £112 million

c) £150 million All proceeds from the line will go to Comic Relief. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

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CHANGING TIMES



Western refugees evacuated to Italy after terrifying car journey through rebel roadblocks to port

British aid worker tells of escape from armed Tirana mob

By Stephen Farrell. and Richard Owen in Brindist

AN AID worker who stood up us from the embassy and ferries leaving for Brindisi to an armed Albanian mob again on the the way to and Bari. British consul officito an armed Albanian mob house was among 120 Britons evacuated by boat from Dur-

Sean Robinson, 29, a Seventh Day Adventist minister working for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (Adra), hid the charity's two four-wheel-drive vehicles before opening the doors. He then fled and was spirited to the British Embassy by friendly locals as the mob stripped

Mr Robinson, from Kenilworth, Warwickshire, told his fiancee Catherine Korzyn-iowski, 21, of his ordeal by mobile phone from the embassy compound. His father Brian, also a minister, later recognised him from a picture of evacuees in The Times.

Mr Robinson, 54, said last night that his son told him: "At 10.45am a mob came to the [Tirana] compound and ripped the gates off the com-pound wall, waving their guns. Sean had the presence of mind to go out and tell them they didn't have to tear the place apart because he had opened the warehouse doors. They went in and stripped the place bare. However, he had

again on the the way to Durres, where he spent hours sitting on the beach overnight waiting for the Italian boats to come in and get him." The warehouse had held about of food and

The British refugees' jour-ney to Durres was hair-rais-ing as the convoy of their cars was repeatedly held up before reaching the port, where the len. The refugees, who includ-

6 A mob came and ripped the gates off the compound wall, waving their guns 🤊

ed 11 Commonwealth citizens (including Australians and Canadians) as well as three Irish nationals, were forced to spend Thursday night on the tions as gunfire resounded from the port area where hundreds of armed Albanians

'King' ready to return

Johannesburg: King Leka of Albania is poised to return to his troubled homeland from his South African exile in an attempt to end the civil unrest (Inigo Gilmore writes). The 57-year-old pretender to

the throne left his Johannesburg home on Thursday for a he says he will await a call from his people. Encouraged by news that President Berisha had agreed to call early elections, the self-styled king. who was two days old when his father, King Zog, fled into exile, says he is the only person able to unify Albania.



King Leka: awaits call

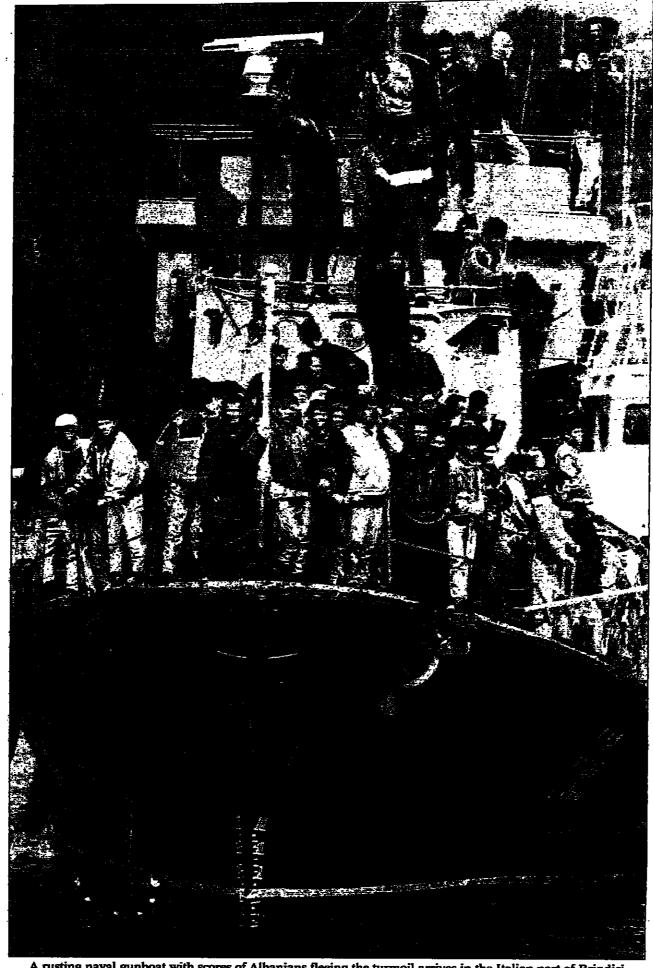
als said British refugees boarded the Italian warship San Giusto by landing craft at dawn yesterday. The San Guisto, an 8,000 ton antisubmarine vessel, headed for Brindisi carrying nearly 1,000 passengers, including Italians and Albanians as well as the British and Commonwealth

About 50 British citizens in Albania failed to make the deadline for the evacuation. British military officials said the destroyer HMS Birming-ham was now moored off Durres to help with a second evacuation operation. HMS Exeter is also nearby in Adriatic waters, and three RAF Hercules are on standby at the military airfield of Gioia del Colle in southern Italy. There were unconfirmed reports yes-terday that American forces were making an attempt to secure Tirana airport so that transport planes and heli-copters could fly in to help with further evacuations.

At the port of Brindisi yesterday Italian military heliwere kept busy ferrying some of the 2,000 American evacuees from Tirana off the USS Nassau. The vessel had evacuated Americans from the Albanian coast in an operation similar to that mounted by the

Captain Angelo Agliatta, the port commander, said "half the Albanian Navy" had arrived in Brindisi in the past 48 hours. Among them were a patrol boat, four launches, two minesweepers, several torpedo boats and two rusting and battered corvettes, with their guns covered in tarpaulin. In addition to the vessels, he said 100 Albanian military person-nel had defected in helicopters.

Among the Albanians who fled to Italy yesterday was General Safet Zhulali, a former Defence Minister. He travelled across the Adriatic with his family on a merchant



A rusting naval gunboat with scores of Albanians fleeing the turmoil arrives in the Italian port of Brindisi

Berisha's fall vital to end the anarchy

By James Pettifer

IF TODAY'S events in Tirana were part of a play. President
Berisha should soon disappear, or fall on his sword. His children have fled, his allies from overseas have deserted him and the mob is at the

But as at the end of Hamlet, the tough Fortinbras-type exgenerals and colonels in their southern mountain towns are watching and waiting. Once everything movable has been stolen, someone, sooner or later, has to restore order, and the southern generals look the most likely candidates.

Neither that, nor any other solution, can happen while Mr Berisha is in situ, and anarchy will reign. The message has to get through that he is now the main obstacle to a reasonably peaceful resolution.

The President is the only factor uniting the opposition. Without Mr Berisha, they are likely to lose momentum and political and clan differences will emerge. If he goes, after the inevitable wild and dangerous party to celebrate, everyone will have to go home.

For this is a classic Balkan spring rising, it cannot continue indefinitely: the fields have to be cultivated and jobs in Greece or Italy have to be found to get families through

A sensible Western policy would be to accept this highly imperfect reality, engineer a dignified removal for Mr Berisha before it is too late, let 【 i his entourage disappear as best they can and hope everyone gets tired quickly. There are signs of this already in some southern towns such as

□ Rome: Italy was embarrassed yesterday that the country had awarded its high-

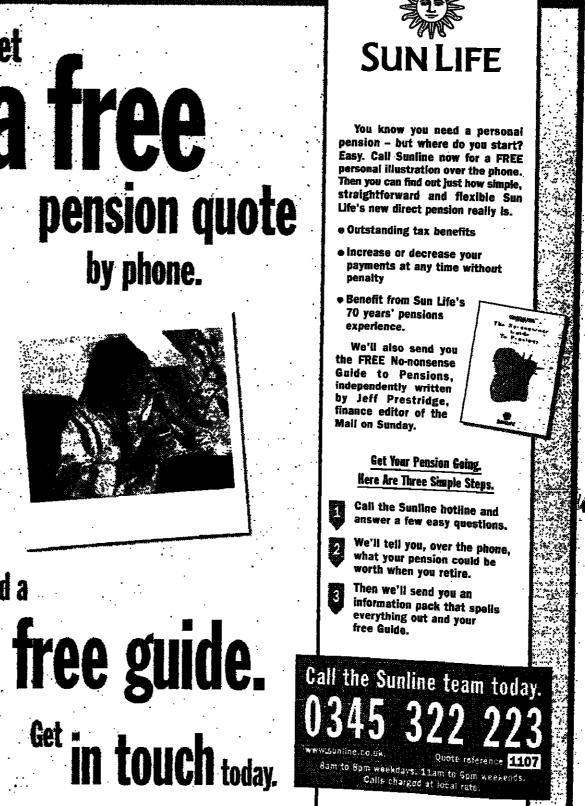
Berisha (John Phillips writes). The Knight of the Grand Cross with the Decoration of the Great Cord was awarded by President Scalfaro fast April when he went on a state visit to Tirana. Red tape had held up the award, which was only officially conferred on Mr

Less Angeles

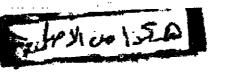
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Foreign vision in shatte

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Frenzy of looting and gunfire as desperate civilians 'take back what the Government has stolen'

Foreigners flee vision of Dante in shattered capital

AS IT closed its doors to the world, ungovernable Albania yesterday melted into a frenzy of shooting, looting and inexplicable motorcades.

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Most Westerners had already had their fill, and chose to board what amounted to a military shuttle helicopter service between Tirana and a US warship. USS Nassau, in the Adriatic.

Italians and Americans left in twin-rotor Chinook helicopters from the national stadium behind a presidential palace that might or might not have contained a President. The British and Greeks took their nationals out by road and boar, running the gauntlet of roadblocks and edgy policemen with an alarming habit of simultaneously gesticulating and shooting.

As more than 120 non-

As more than 120 nonessential American Embassy staff took to the skies, the American Ambassador, Marisa Lino, assured Albanians on state television that they were not being abandoned.

Durres, the port of departure for those fleeing Albania's social catastrophe, was a vision from Dante. A people not noted for their industry descended on the quayside government warehouses en masse, and picked them bare. Lorries, donkeys, horses, bicy-



Tom Walker in Durres watches a sky filled with helicopters ferrying terrified foreigners out of Albania

cles, mopeds, wheelbarrows:
no mode of transport was
ignored in a frenzy of looting.
The kings of the rampage
were the truck gangs, comprising Kalashnikov-toting
youths in bandanas and balaclavas, letting off warning
volleys as they marked out
their territories for pillage.
The pitted road alongside the
derricks and smashed security
fences was clogged with the
young and the old, men,
women and children alike.
They carted, cycled and
humped away iron rods, sacks
of cement, furniture, books,
lamps, tools, batteries, webbing — anything not anchored
to the ground or walls went
amid the rising dust and din of

gunfire.
"It is a bad sinuation," admitted Dash Jarvet, 53, a school director, his bicycle burdened with five carrier bags full of books. "But the Government stole from the people and now the people are stealing back." In his hand he clutched Vilet e Zemerimit —

the Albanian translation of The Grapes of Wrath. "We have taken those that we think are good," he explained. "My school needs all these things." Others preferred to stay indoors, well away from the Balkan macho displays of firepower.

"It is terrible, they are shooting all night and all day," said Doriana Nikolla, 20. "We don't have anything to eat — all the shops are closed and the ones that open are immediately louted by armed men." Her cousin, Genti Robja, a physics teacher from Elbasan, pleaded with visiting journalists to stay. "Please do not go, foreigners are like gods to us here. If only Nato would intervene for two days everything would be under control and the people would give the guns back."

Silhouetted against the horizon, too far to be of much comfort, were the warships of the Italian Navy, where Albania's future was being discussed by members of a new ha



1 00 Keylus

Government impotent to end the chaos onshore. Despite the heat, many Albanians in Durres wore jackets and coats, insisting they would jump aboard any ship that came

The road from the port, past the summer palace of King Zog, was littered with spilled merchandise, broken lorries and dead donkeys and dogs. The looting epidemic was less frenzied in the capital, but a half-built private housing es-

tate on the edge of Tirana provided rich pickings. A hillboard described it as "The Prime Neighbourhood with Comfort," but by the end of the afternoon there was little left.

Most of Tirana's shops were hastily emptied of their contents by worried owners and shuttered.
"We want to save our heads

and what we own," said Alfred Maloska as he loaded handbags into a trailer behind his Mercedes. Further clouding the confused issue of authority in the capital, a motorcade of armoured personnel carriers, Mercedes and Romanian Jeeps crawled around the city centre in the late afternoon.

Plainclothes thugs popped

out of turrets and sunroofs, firing deafening rounds of automatic fire over the international hotels and the television station.

Hospitals in the capital reported at least 16 dead in the past 24 hours and some 140

wounded, nearly all in shooting accidents. "I shot my best friend in the head," sobbed one man outside a casualty

unit.

Various theories began to take shape over who is organising the distribution of weapons, with reports coming in from several areas of the city suggesting that ruling Democratic Party activists are recruiting armed militia units to defend the President.

uniforms on again and return to the streets, promising their salaries would be trebled. Foreigners having trouble identifying who is who in the

lines of reasserting order, state

television appealed to the

police and army to put their

Foreigners having trouble identifying who is who in the Albanian security services could take solace in the presence of ISO American Marines "in theatre".

cruiting armed militia units
defend the President.
Along more conventional
There were also rumours of an SAS unit in the basement of the British Embassy.

Chaos is the only order as mobs turn to plunder

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN TIRANA

THIS is anarchy in its purest form. Burning houses, masked gunmen, streams of refugees, US Cobra gunships clattering overhead.

Tirana is imploding. Battle is confusing, but still has some basic parameters. Struggling policemen hold the capital's centre against the mobs, exchanging fire with increasing frequency as gangs push for plunder.

A thin line of nervous conscripts and Shik secret police have cordoned off the presidential quarters. Nobody knows whether President Berisha is still inside. Rumours are rife that he had fled the country were denied and, at an emergency meeting, he is reported to have declared resolutely: "I no longer have an army or a police force, but Albania still has a President."

No renegade group seems to have the same agenda.

Some have taken up arms in support of Berisha, some in

support of the rebels; others to loot, others for their own protection.

On Thursday night Fier, 40 miles south of Tirana, was the last bastion of government support. By dawn, it had fallen, becoming a fieldom loyal to no one but itself. We left in derelict streets at dawn.

The Foreign Office has set up a telephone line for people worried about relatives in Albania. The number is: 0171 839 5656.

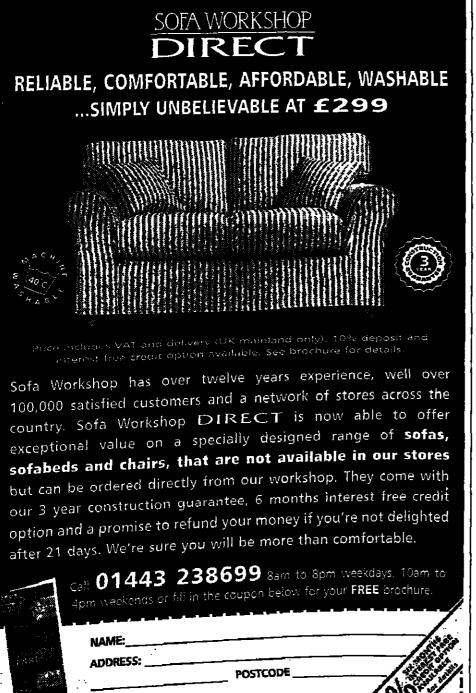
jumping aboard an empty bus whose driver was trying to get back to his family in Tirana. Tanks rolled out of looted army bases as we neared the port of Durres, its harbour already choked by a flotilla of small boats as refugees struggled to escape to Italy. Defecting conscripts jumped aboard the bus, pale with fear, joined soon by injured insurgents and wounded children. Twice we stopped at medical centres; twice the bloody casualties were turned away by doctors who no longer had the equipment to treat them.

seemed to have been taken over by the escaped inmates of a lunatic asylum. Drunken gangs laden with firepower, their faces hidden by skimasks and balaclavas, orchestrated looting from homes and government buildings.

Children leapt from the breached doorway of a sports shop. Beside them gunmen fired at two US Cobra helicopters taking part in the evacuation of the US Embassy.

As the gunfire nears the presidential building it seems impossible that Mr Berisha could survive the next 24





TELEPHONE:

Netanyahu joins grieving families at schoolgirls' funeral

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

weeks Israel was yesterday plunged into national mourning as more young Jews were buried amid scenes of private grief and public declarations of resoluteness in the face of Arab hostility.

This time the dead were schoolgirls murdered by a soldier firing along the normally tranquil border with Jordan Last month it was 73 young soldiers killed in a midair helicopter crash as they flew towards the so-called security zone in southern

The funerals took place in the working-class town of Beit Shemesh, lo miles from Jerusalem, under cover of darkness. At the cemetery packed with thousands of mourners in a community that is small enough to resemble an extended family, mothers' screams tore through the night air. It was hard to imagine how the bereaved will greet King Hus-

FOR the second time in six he arrives next week to pay his condolences.

At the nearby school from which all the victims came, there was frustration with the inability of the peace process to end violence and bewilderment that seven lively classmates, who had set out on a field trip to the Hill of Peace with their lunch boxes, never

"This peace is not real, and there will not ever be peace." Ehud Amitai, 17, said. "The Arabs do not want peace, they want the whole country.

In the entrance hall, students arranged memorial candles in the shape of a "7". There was friction between some of the family mourners and the official government party led by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister. "Who asked him to come here," Hazi, the father of

Keren Cohen, demanded. In his eulogy, Mr Netanyahu struck the note of firmShemesh and other workingclass areas like it voted for him last May. "These girls were murdered due to one reason: because they were girls who belonged to the Jewish people, because of the horrible hatred against which we are struggling with determination," the Prime Minister told the crowd, many of whom were in

Lightning flashed as four burial shrouds were lowered into their graves. Some relatives fainted and mourners cried out as Mr Netanyahu and the other dignitaries read out the names."I want her back," the mother of one of the girls shouted as Mr Netan-

yahu was speaking.
"All the buses that left Beit Shemesh were full of the joy of life. They came back filled with despair and mourning," Zevulun Hammer, the Education Minister, said. "It was not a school trip, it was the final path. The River Jordan is red



Israeli Cabinet votes to press on with settlement

By Christopher Walker

THE Israeli Cabinet yesterday decided unanimously to defy world opinion and respond to the girls' massacre by starting work early next week on a massive new settlement for 32,000 Jews in occupied east Jerusalem.

The decision to send the bulldozers to the pine-covered hill known as Har Homa, which Israel's internal security chiefs acknowledge will lead to serious violence with the Palestinians, was taken at a six-hour session of the rightwing Cabinet.

Israel radio said there were no dissenting voices against the decision to start the building, despite the UN General Assembly vote by 130 to two, with two abstentions, calling on Israel to abandon the planned settlement, which will be constructed on land con-quered from Jordan in 1967.

The Cabinet session began with a minute's silence for the seven Jewish girls aged 12 and 13 who were shot dead by a Jordanian soldier as they were on a school trip to a piece of border territory handed back to Jordan in the 1994 peace reaty. By the blackest of ironies, the site is named "The Hill of Peace".

Interrogation of the gun-man, Ahmed Mousa, an army driver variously described as in his mid twenties or early thirties, was continuing in Jordan, where his father and mother said that he had

picasso's

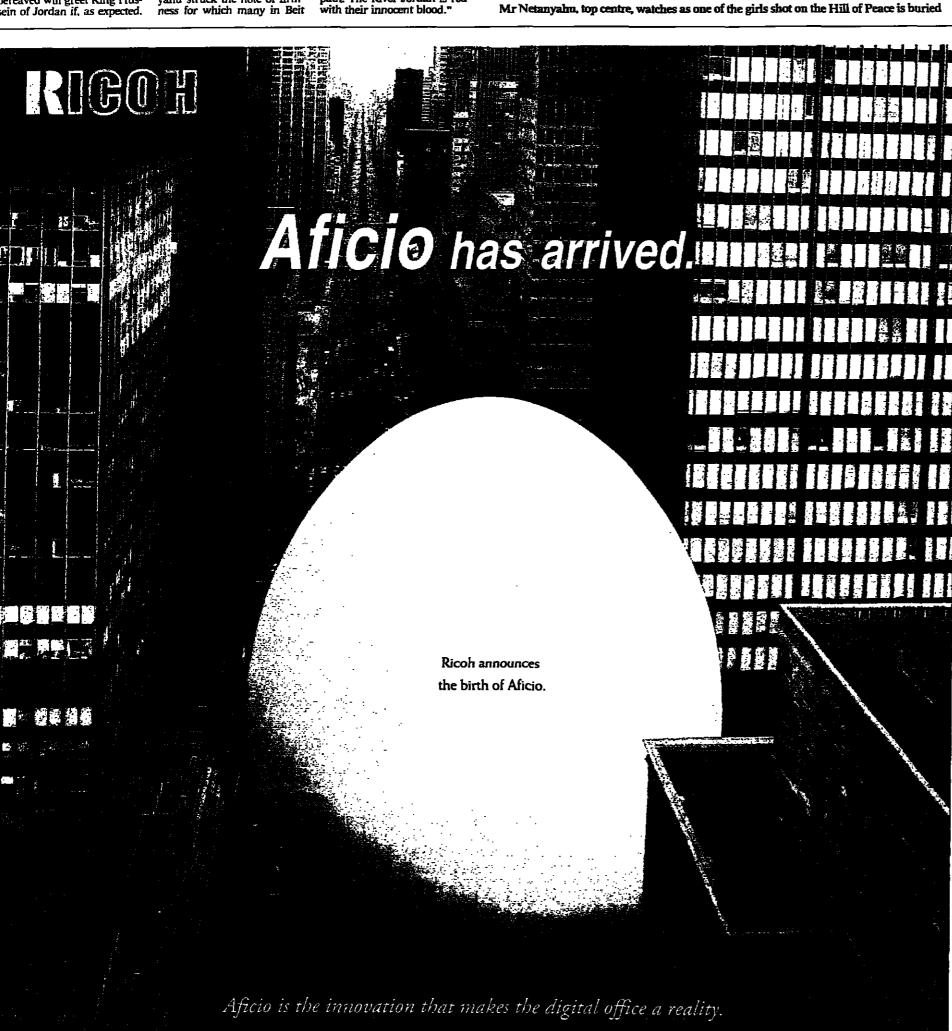
Guernica

psychological problems.

Israeli officials were keeping an open mind on the causes and motives of the tragedy, noting that the gun-man's mother had accompanied her claim of insanity with a plea to King Hussein for demency.

A senior Jordanian officer told the Tel Aviv daily. Yediat Aharonot: This is a lone soldier and not an underground group in the Jordanian Army."

The paper's Arab affairs expert, Smadar Perry, who is known for her connections with the Hashemite court, said the prevailing view in Amman was that the soldier would be put on military trial and sentenced to life in prison.

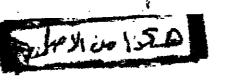


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Fears for bride who defied her family

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN

SAIMA WAHEED, the Pakistani woman whose right to marry a man of her choice was upheld by a high court this week, has disappeared after she left a women's refuge in Lahore to join her husband.

Arshad Ahmed, her husband, accused his estranged father-in-law of kidnapping his wife and feared that her life is in danger. He said: "My wife has been confined in a basement of a madrasah [reli-

gious school] run by her uncle. I am worried for her life." Miss Waheed, 22, a business management "student, married Mr Ahmed, a lecturer at the local college, last year against the wishes of her Abdul Waheed, a rich businessman, filed a suit claiming that marriage without the consent of a wali (guardian) was invalid in Islamic law. But the Lahore High Court on Monday ruled that the marriage was valid, and rejected the argument that Islam did not

allow love before marriage. Miss Waheed, who lived in the refuge for almost a year because of a threat to her life from her parents, left the hostel with her husband's



Waheed: married man of her choice

lawyer, Abid Saqi. But events took a bitter turn: Mr Ahmed said his wife was not brought to his house, and that he suspected Mr Saqi of handing Miss Waheed to her parents. Mr Saqi insists that he took her to Mr Ahmed's home.

Prior to leaving the refuge, Miss Waheed declared before the deputy Advocate-General that she was going of her own will. "I feel it necessary to record this statement before a judicial officer due to the threat from my relatives." she wrote. Her lawyer, Asma Jehangir, who witnessed Miss Waheed's statement, confirmed that she left with Mr Saqi. "That was the last time I

saw her," Mrs Jehangir said. Miss Waheed's father denies that his daughter is in his custody. "We have no relations with the girl since she humiliated us by violating Islamic traditions," Mr Wah-

eed said. Police said they were investigating her disappearance.

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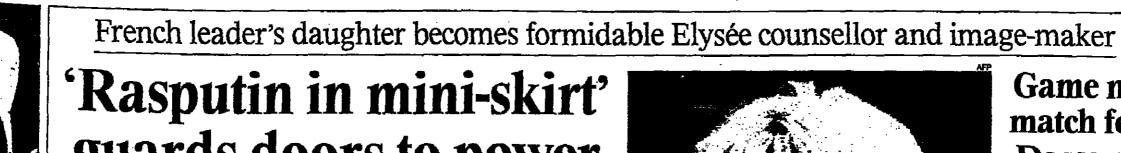
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communications ad-

woman in France,

viser and, at 34, the most powerful

When Mme Chirac first joined her father's political team in 1988 she

was regarded by many as little more

than an attempt to show the candi-

date as a family man, a temporary

fixture who would fade into an

anonymous sinecure if her father

Instead, she has gradually evolved

into M Chirac's most formidable

counsellor and image-maker. Since

his election victory in 1995, for which

Mme Chirac deserves much of the credit, her influence has grown

steadily, while her own public profile

has become ever more indistinct.

"She is everywhere," remarks one

Mme Chirac's crucial but

backroom role in her father's presi-

dency has not passed unchallenged.

THE distinction in France between

the arts and politics, always uncer-

tain, has become more bafflingly

blurred with politicians declaring

themselves to be authors and artisis

taking to the streets to oppose

Alain Juppe, the Prime Minister,

enjoyed baring his soul so much in

his recent, plaintive book entitled

immigration policy.

Elysee official. "And nowhere."

gained the highest office.

A detail of Picasso's depiction of civil war

Museums fight over Picasso's Guernica

IN MADRID

A HEATED custody battle has broken out between two Spanish museums over Picasso's Guernica, one of the best known paintings of the 20th century,

The anguished 1937 painting commemorates the destruction by German bombers during the Spanish Civil War of the Basque town of Guernica. It hangs at present in Madrid's Reina Solia Museum, to which it was moved from the Prado five years ago.

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contrary to the artist's wishes. Yesterday, however, Basque nationalists renewed demands for the transfer of the painting to the new Guggenheim Mu-seum in Bilbao. Touted as the "artistic flagship" of the Basque country, the Guggenheim hopes to secure Guernica for its long-awaited inauguration on October 3

Yet, unlike many Basque politicians, who want Guernica "repatriated" to the land of its inspiration, the management of the Guggenheim is prepared to accept the painting on "short-term loan". The "short term" requested, however, is two years.

However, the management of the Reina Sofia, it appears, is loath to part with Guernica for even two days. The painting is going absolutely nowhere," a spokeswoman said. "Its condition is too fragile for it to be moved yet again." She has a point. Picasso's vast canvas has travelled extensively in its sixty years, often in less than ideal conditions.

Rasputin in mini-skirt'

guards doors to power

but several of M Chirac's senior

advisers have learnt to their cost that

crossing swords with the President's

him that cannot be crossed." say

Nicolas Domenach and Maurice

Szafran in a book published this

week that has cast a revealing new

light on the father-daughter team at

the heart of the presidency. "Claude

runs the agenda: she holds supreme power. Other than Alain Juppe, the

Prime Minister, nobody gets a tete-a-

tète with Chirac without going through Claude . . . it is an exorbi-

On one level Mme Chirac is in

charge of presidential style: it was

she who persuaded her father to do

away with his severe spectacles and

stiff suits before the 1995 election,

and ever since she has closely

Entre Nous, that he has now decided

to publish a bi-monthly pamphlet

describing his inner feelings. His

first, heart-warming subject is re-

Alain Delon, the veteran actor,

has leapt into the political fray with

an open letter deploring the ills of

society ranging from child abuse to

form of national health insurance.

tant power, and thus dangerous."

"She builds a perimeter around

daughter is pointless and perilous.

kings and presidents PARIS FILE have had an *eminence* grise, but there have by BEN more eminent and less visible than Claude **MAČINTYRE** Chirac, the daughter of President Chirac, his



of his image, from his orchestrated television choice of tie, But Elysée insiders

say that her role goes beyond that of wardrobe monitor or spin-ductor. She is M

Chirac's closest confidante, "Rasputin in a mini-skirt", according to one of her detractors, the main conduit to the President's ear and, of all his advisers, perhaps the only one on whose loyalty he can count unconditionally. In return, the President has provided her with something no other member of the inner circle can assume: invulnerability.

In 1992, the future President had a short, but telling, exchange with Pierre Charron, his press attaché. "Pierre, you think it is a mistake to have Claude by my side?" 'Yes. monsieur.'

"I need my daughter. This is not negotiable."

Soon, M Charron was no longer working for M Chirac.

Claude Chirac's grip on presiden-tial PR is matched by a profound aversion to self-publicity. Refusing to give interviews, the President's "shadow" is omnipresent, a ligure on the margin of every photograph. mobile telephone in hand. "I have nothing to say about politics," says this most political daughter.

Before she joined the Chirac entourage Mme Chirac once remarked, to her father's distress, that since infancy she could "not remember spending an entire Sunday in his company". Now, barely a day passes when she is not in constant, if invisible, attendance.



M Chirac's daughter, Claude: "She is everywhere - and nowhere"

Game no match for **Dassault**

SERGE DASSAULT, the flamboyant millionaire who heads the French defence manufacturer Dassault Aviation, has been accused of mounting his own illegal Rambo-style "game safari". by using a custom-built gun turret on an open-top Jeep to blast away at local fauna in northern France.

M Dassault, 71, was intercepted by state hunting officials last October as he was chauffered around his 8,500acre estate at Coignères, near Versailles, in what was described as a four-wheeldrive killing machine". Shooting from the back of a moving vehicle is banned in France, and ten animal welfare groups, led by the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, have taken out a civil suit against the industrialist.

'Monsieur Dassault is a dangerous individual who shoots anything that moves. Soon there will be hunting in the forests with tanks and napalm," Laurent Benarrous, the lawyer for the foundation. told the court. M Dassault, whose personal fortune is estimated at £35 million, claimed he simply "did not have time" to cull deer in the traditional way.
If convicted, his vehicle will

be confiscated but another. more radical, solution is at hand. M Dassault, a trained pilot, makes the Mirage fighter-bomber and Exocet mis-

Politics becomes art form

British Council brought to book over Athens library

By MARK HENDERSON

Concerned English Speakers

THE British Council is set to abandon a plan to close its lending library in Athens after a campaign by expatriates and educationalists in the city, backed by some of Britain's best-known literary personalities. It is also to review its wider policy of shutting its libraries across Europe and South-East Asia as a result of the Athens campaign. Ruth Nagley, a poet and novelist who is president of the

Weldon: wants council to restock library

of Athens, said yesterday that the council was about to bow to pressure from her organisation and keep the library open after failing to find a suitable home for the books.

"We have made it very difficult for them to do any-thing else," she said. "We showed them that the options they had considered for disposing of the books were not viable." She said the four main bids to rehouse the library were inappropriate because the books would be "left to

John Munby, the director of the British Council in Athens, said yesterday that a decision on the library's future would be announced on Tuesday. He said the situation had been reappraised in light of the protest, and that keeping the books in council hands was now "an option". Funds will also be allocated for development and a trained librarian. I guarantee that library users will be satisfied with the decision we take next week,"

Dr Munby said. The campaign to save the library, first reported in The Times, won backing from the novelists Fay Weldon, John Patrick Leigh-Fermor and John Fowles.

'I'm terribly pleased it's going to survive, and it's all due to Ruth Nagley's work," Ms Weldon said yesterday. "She was determined that the British Council should not be allowed to make one of the biggest mistakes of its life, and when she complained, it moved." Ms Weldon said she hoped the council would start to restock its other libraries.

A group of Greek academics have also attacked the planned closure, saying it would have "a deplorable effect on the prospects for Greek students studying in English". Commentators in The Times and The Spectator condemned the

plan as cultural vandalism. The British Council had hoped to save £7 million by closing down libraries in developed countries where there were alternative English language services, and replacing them with computerised "information centres" with access

to the Internet and CD-Roms. But the Athens row has perthis policy. Stephan Roman, its head of information services, has completed a tour of Western European branches to reassess the need for lending services.

Nigel Semmens, a council spokesman, said yesterday library services were under review in Italy. Spain and Germany as well as Greece. We will continue lending services to the public in all these countries," he disclosed.

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POP 1 Jane Siberry adds lustre to

the distinguished tradition of female Canadian singer/songwriters



POP 2

.. while the Orb, on tour in Norwich, offer their customary mixture of the weird and the wild THE



■ VISUAL ART

Extraordinarily beautiful portraits from 2,000 years ago go on show at the British Museum



ON MONDAY

The importance of being Oscar: Simon Callow talks about his forthcoming walk on the Wilde side

AT WHELAN'S in Dublin Jane Siberry's concert served to underline the strength of the Canadian female singer/songwriter tradition, Nick Kelly writes. Combining the intensity of Joni Mitchell, the sensual croon of k d lang and the rhapsodic grace of Mary Margaret O'Hara, Siberry

nonetheless adds a distinctive flavour to this maple diet of arty chanteuses. She sings with a child-like joy, thrilled by the miracle of self-expression. See The Child, for instance, with its images of bees, butterflies and blue skies, typifies a certain wispy, fairytale quality in Siberry's lyric style. You Don't Need Anybody and Ain't It Funny? take a more mature approach, dispensing with the

streams of consciousness in which some of Siberry's lyrics aimlessly drift. Pianist Tim Ray proved particularly adept at creating mise-en-scène for Siberry's panoramic vocals. But the plaintive trumpet of David Travers-Smith was perhaps underused. The sustained jazz influence was a little surprising given that Siberry's new album, Teenager, is an

unadorned acoustic folk record of songs Siberry wrote as a naive, angst-ridden adolescent in her bedroom. Songwriters have always used their

Flying the maple leaf

POP CONCERTS

creative juices. Siberry, though, has regressed lock, stock and musical barrel in order to rediscover her muse. But it was the more familiar material, such as

Calling All Angels, which brought the crowd to its feet. AN Orb performance plays to two audiences at once, and the group's gig at the UEA, Norwich was no exception, John Street writes. At the front there are the dancers, all arms and stomping feet. At the back there are the sedate circles of seated admirers. The two reactions are a

product of the Orb's peculiar mixture of Jungle beats, dub rhythms, swirling sounds and sampled voices. Behind a white canvas corral. Alex

Paterson, the Orb's founder, and his most

recent collaborator. Andy Hughes, busy

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themselves with their screens and consoles. As they earnestly oversee the controls, Paterson and Hughes generate an extraordinary mix of noise and beats, versions of which appear on their new album Orblivion, their sixth since 1989. With Passing of Time, their opening piece, a voice intones repeatedly "come with us". It is accompanied by the cheeping of an electronic aviary, the

melodic phrases. Only their recent hit single Toxygene provides an example of a more conventional musical structure. Otherwise. rhythms and tunes are summoned up and abandoned, revived and then dismissed again. Emerging through these slightly nightmarish textures, there are yet more voices: extracts from the McCar-

Orb do not play to make a point, or to draw attention to themselves. They are there to perform a function, to serve both the dancers and the seated circles. Judged by this standard, it is hard to fault the quality of the service.

echoing drip of water in a cave, stuttering beats, juddering bass notes and repeated

thy hearings, crazed monologues about the evolution of the species, and public service announcements. But for all these strange messages, the

arid pre-adult years to stimulate the

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Mummy's dearest

Isabel Carlisle

on a stunning collection of portraits from the tombs of

Roman Egypt

n extraordinary and beautiful exhibition has just opened at the British Museum of the very beginnings of painted portraiture in Western art. The people depicted con-sider themselves to be of Greek origin, descendants of mercenaries who fought for Alexander the Great, living in Egypt between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD. The artists are unknown, and this school of art emerged out of nowhere to fade away just as mysteriously at the onset of Christianity.

The faces are depicted with great sensitivity, as one might expect portraits of the dying and the dead to be. For these images on wood are found tucked into the linen shrouds of mummified corpses, and recent research (including CAT scanning of the skulls) has shown that the age of the skeleton as pinpointed by science corresponds very closely to the age of the faces gazing out at us. Not only that. Reconstruction of the skulls using 3D computer technology proves how very accurate

these portraits were. The theory goes that the portraits, in encaustic (pigments held in beeswax) or gouache (pigments combined with egg yolk) on imported wooden panels, were done at the time of death, first as a tribute to be carried in the funeral procession and then as a lasting memorial to be kept with the corpse. No wonder the expressions are solemn and the tones pallid despite the dark complexions. These are people on the brink of the Egyptian afterlife of Anubis



Faces of antiquity: portraits painted in (from left) AD 160-170; AD 140-160; AD 100-120

and Osiris that they so clearly believed in, staring back at the living with huge, dark eyes. Many died young and were clearly still handsome. The real revelation is just how accomplished a school of art

this was.

There has never been an exhibition on this subject before and the research involved in bringing all these portraits together, along with jewellery, textiles and the whole paraphernalia of the Egyptian death cult. has resulted in new discoveries. Portraits of a mother and son have been reunited on the basis that they not only came from the same tomb but look remarkably alike. Two portraits from er-Rubayat in the Fayum region by the same artist, of a man and a woman, are now shown side by side. Their carefully painted aristocratic features and elegant costumes in the latest Roman fashion put these among the finest paintings in the exhibition.

Some corpses were wrapped in a linen doth that had a fulllength portrait painted on it. One of a woman wearing a long white tunic and mantle is thought to come from Antinoopolis, the city founded on the Nile by the Emperor Hadrian at the spot where his young lover Antinous had he is stepping towards us with her jewelled

hands raised in a ges-

ture of communica-

who has the luxury of servants. The purple of many of the fabrics and gold of the jewellery (sometimes laid in

tion. Her rather heavy-

featured face looks straight

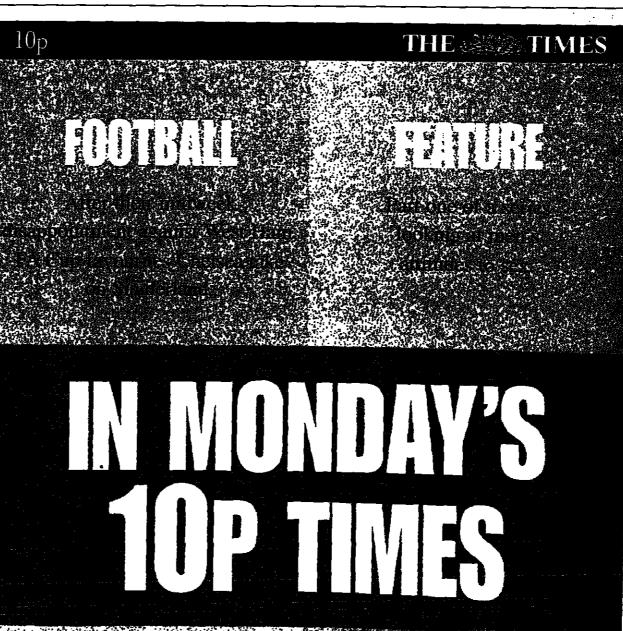
ahead and she has the com-

manding presence of a woman

with gold leaf) seems to prefigure the splendour of Byzantium, but it is uncertain if any link exists between these haunting portraits and icon painting. What is clear is that these portraits have no othermessage to convey than that of belonging to a culturally distinct group. Even as a privileged elite, dressed in their best clothes, they were not designed to impress, but to evoke a close family member. In their directness they skip the idealising portraits of the intervening centuries to link into portraiture of the past 100 years. Very few artists, however, have looked so piercingly

unknown Egyptians. Ancient Faces: Munimy Portraits from Roman Egypt is at the British Museum until July 20. Standard admission £4.50. Advance booking from First Call, 0171-420 0000

into people's souls as these



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■ OPINION Let's celebrate Christo and all the other eccentrics who add a little wit to everyday life



THEATRE A stylish staging of Waste launches Peter Hall's company at

the Old Vic

THE



From Zubin Mehta conducting a concert to mark the anniversary of Indian independence...

■ WHAT'S ON

Futelion S.D



WHAT'S ON

... to a tour by the comedian Dylan Moran: the top events are previewed in The Directory

ranity is a much overrated quality, don't you think? Especially in showbiz. The trouble with the arts world today is that it is too damn sane, too businesslike, too cluttered with cautious bureaucrats. In short, it lacks the wow factor. Perhaps 18 years of Torydom have had something to do with that. But with Labour's arts policy as wowinducing as a night at the Watford Gap service station, I can't see the

salety-lirst mentality going away. Don't get me wrong. I know that great performing companies can-not function like hippie communes. Even the trendiest theatre directors now accept that it is probably a good idea to employ an accountant to tot up the frocks bill - which wasn't always the case in the wild and carefree Sixties.

But where has the fun gone? Where's the wit and bravado? Where's the "let's do the show right here?" spark of glorious improbability? Too many big arts organisations now seem like factories, their production lines churning out shows that are competent, efficient, reliable ... and buttock-numbingly predictable. You might as well watch baked beans being canned.

Ten cheers for culture's barmy army So today this column is donating of anything if you really, really a few mad inches to a celebration want to - and proves it on a of March hares: the mavericks who remain untouched by dreary old Mr Sanity and his prim sidekick, Ms Commonsense, Hundreds of them are out there: the students mounting War and Peace

on a bus; the underwater string quarter (I've seen the photographs): the parachuting ballet. Here are some of the virtuosos of eccentricity appearing in Britain in the next few weeks. Drop in on them if you can: they remind you that art is meant to be fun.

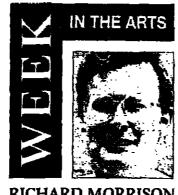
Mach's Train. You may know of David Mach's deeds, even if you can't place the name. The feisty Scot built a "Rolls-Royce" from 15,000 telephone directories; an 80ft "Parthenon" from old tyres; a huge face welded from coat-hang-Other Mach projects used 40,000 matchsticks, hundreds of teddy bears, thousands of beer buttles, and 80 tons of magazines. He takes the Blue Peter principle - that you can make anything out

DONALD COOPER

gigantic scale. But his current project is his magnum onus. Outside a supermarket in Darling-ton he is erecting a massive model of a steam train. When finished, in June, it will be 100ft long, 30ft high, and use 180,000 bricks.

To say that his work evokes strong reactions would be an understatement. An arsonist killed himself setting fire to Mach's rubber Polaris on the South Bank in 1983, and two years ago Mach's sumo-wrestler statues in Edinburgh were mysteriously decapitated. The Darlington train has had its knockers, too. After all, it is consuming £600,000 of lottery money. But Mach is one of the great originals. And the fact that his epic monuments never last more that a few weeks (for one reason or another) gives him an

Christo and Jeanne-Claude. Yesterday the Yorkshire Sculpture Park opened an exhibition devoted



RICHARD MORRISON

to the husband-and-wife team who specialise in wrapping bridges, buildings, even whole islands. In 1995, after 24 years of negotiation with the unaccountably nervous German Government, the pair succeeded in covering the Reichstag in Berlin with a million square foot of silver fabric. By the time the wraps came off, a month later. 1.5 million people had

gawped at this bizarre spectacle and wondered about its literally hidden meaning.

Alas, although there will be plenty of photographs, the biggest wrapped object actually present in the Yorkshire show will be a motor car. Why doesn't the Millennium Commission arrange for Christo and Jeanne-Claude to wrap some really impressive icon of the British Establishment for the year 2000? Douglas Hogg, perhaps.

Acid Brass. The most incongruous musical mismatch since Dame Kiri Te Kanawa recorded West Side Story? It sounds like it: a brass band, neatly uniformed, trying to play acid house music. But the audience at the Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts a couple of weeks ago went wild when the Williams Fairey Engineering Band launched into transcriptions of Eighties dance music. Now this wonderful marriage of opposites is to be repeated in London (Queen Elizabeth Hall. April 19). What next? The greatest hits of Snuop Doggy Dogg sung by the choir of King's College, Cambridge? That may be nearer than you think. Already we have . . .

Hip bop opera. Or "hip-hopera", as the cognoscenti prefer. Next month the Noningham Playhouse premieres Preshh, the story of a rapper whose career turns as sour as his lyrics — all set to hip hop dance music devised by DJs on stage. What makes this opera even more remarkable is that it started as a project for 100 unemployed youngsters in Nottingham. 40 of whom will constitute the final cast. It might be raw, but I bet it has more wow per decibel than Tosca at Covent Garden.

If you want the ultimate musical wow, however, try . . .

Virtual World Orchestra. For three nights (April 4-6) the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow will be linked via the Internet to "technoartists, DJs. bands and multimedia performers" from around the world. Some sounds and

images will arrive via the Net. some will be created live, and some (here's the really weird bit) will be performed live but controlled by internet users. And if you don't have a clue what I'm wittering on about, I would advise an early night with a cup of cocoa instead.

could go on, I could mention

Tight Roaring Circle, which , will turn the Roundhouse in Chalk Farm, London, into a vast "choreographic instrument" later this month; or Blue Skies, which will install a "virtual landscape" consisting of giant floating cows in a giant floating flowerbed into the historic naval dockyard in Chatham next week. Or Miracles, a gargantuan music-theatre project in the Albert Hall next month that 1,000 youngsters have been preparing for the past two years.

No, insanity is not dead. It's alive and well and living on the vibrant fringes, where there are no committees to shout "impractical!", no bureaucrats to scream "uncontrollable!", and no rulebooks to say "impossible!". Thank goodness for the March hares. They are plotting the future, while our grandiose culture palaces are busy mummifying the past.



Yes, minister

maverick chosen to steer a key

Bill through the Commons,

has an affair with a married

woman, Felicity Kendal's Amy

O'Connell. She gets pregnant,

has an abortion, and dies. It was the back-street surgery that offended the censor, but

he must have been equally

distressed by the play's dan-

gerously confident forays into the back alleys of politics.

It is an even more timely

piece than in 1985, when the RSC staged a blend of the 1907

and 1926 versions, because the

subject of Trebell's Bill. the

disestablishment of the

Church, is again showing

signs of edging on to the

political agenda. And when

was scandal, sleaze and at-

tempted cover-up more topical than now? True, Denis

Quilley's worldly-wise Prime

Minister has little in common

with John Major; but I would

be surprised if the great scene

in which Trebell's strengths

are balanced with his potential

for embarrassment has not

had its counterparts in this

With Alan Dobie making a canny but brutal play for

o see Granville Barker's Waste is to know what Shaw meant when he called its author "the most distinguished and incomparably the most cultivated person whom circumstances had driven into the theatre". If just a few of the plays that find their way into John Gunter's dark-blue boxset over the coming months display as much elegance of mind, moral scope and political sharpness, then we will be hailing Peter Hall's inaugural season at the Old Vic as a notable event.

Does that sound a slightly wintry compliment? Well, there were moments when the play also put me in mind of Maugham's claim that Barker needed "more force, more go, more blunmess, more guts, more beef". But then, much of Waste occurs in the airless salons and high councils of the Tory party. Barker was on veekending terms with many of the great men of his day: which is why his characters' guarded wit and knowing hanter has such deadly authenticity.

Hall gives us Waste as Barker radically revised it in 1926, meaning that Labs as well as Libs are in opposition: but the plot is the same one that got the play banned in 1907. Michael Pennington's Henry Trebell, the political

power, Peter Blythe hopping THEATRE about the moral high ground like some poor, goosed Gum-mer. Greg Hicks behaving Waste most unpredictably as the aggrieved widower, and Quilley trying to manipulate Old Vic

events to a sale conclusion. you feel you are watching the political chess game in action. But that game only emphasises the extent to which Trebell's strange blend of ide-alism and ruthlessness, moral passion and hardheadedness. is exceptional. Kendal catches Amy's brit-

tle vulnerability and, in extremis, the feral panic that has her half-clutching, half-beating at her inconvenient womb. Anna Carteret and David Yelland make something of two Trebell loyalists: his sister and his doctor. But it is, as it should be, Pennington's evening. If he misses the stunted paternal yearnings, it is because Barker emphasised them in his 1926 version, preferring to show us Trebell's mental rigour and the chilling realism with which he faces adversity. All this Pennington successfully suggests, his face yellowing under the strain, but his charisma intact to the end. To lose such a man is indeed what the title says: a waste.

> BENEDICT **NIGHTINGALE**



ATTACK OF THE GREY LANTERN.

'BREATH TAKING' THE TIMES

"ATTACK OF THE GREY LANTERN" WON'T PALE WITH TIME. INSTEAD IT WILL GROW STRONGER AND MAKE A PERFECT PARTNER FOR RADIOHEAD'S "THE BENDS".' a

> 'A STUNNING ALBUM' ID 'AWESOME' NIME

'A BOLD, FULLY-COCKED AND DOWNRIGHT MATURE DEBUT' VOX

THE DEBUT ALBUM OUT NOW 🧶

"ROMANCE WITH A DOUBLE EDGE...

Amy O'Connell in Granville Barker's timely Waste THE COMPETITION TICKETS TO STAR WARS PREMIERE TO BE WON

Readers of *The Times* have the chance to win tickets to the premiere of Star Wars and go to the star-studded party afterwards. We have 10 pairs of tickets to give away. The premiere, in aid of

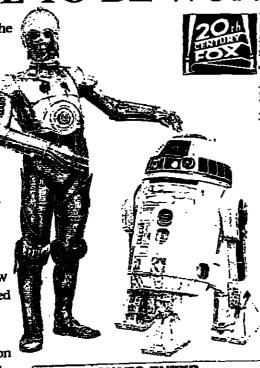
The Prince's Trust, is on Thursday March 20, 1997, at the Odeon, Leicester Square. London and will be attended by Prince Charles. The film, which was first released 20 years ago, has

restored prints, enhanced or new visual effects, a newly-remastered soundtrack - and some special surprises. It stars Mark Hamill, Harrison

Ford, Carrie Fisher, Peter Cushing and Alec Guinness. Hamill will be at the premiere and so will writer and director George Lucas. At the after-film bash you will see

the original X-Wing fighter, visit the Yarvin 4 Bar, play on the interactive games machines and dance the night away to the original Star Wars disco theme - and eat and drink till the small hours.

The lucky winners will also each receive an original poster of the Star Wars Trilogy.



HOW TO ENTER All you have to do is call

0839 444 546 with your answer to this question:

Which famous catch phrase came from Star Wars?

a) "I'll be back"

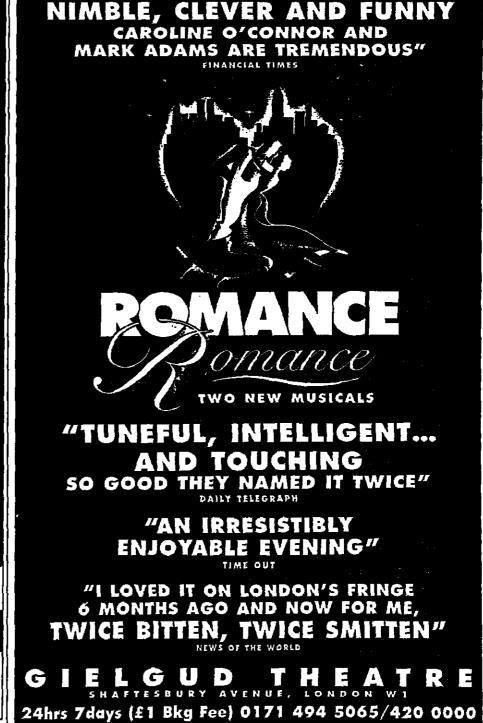
"Make my day." "May the Force be with you."

The winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. The line will be open until midnight tomorrow.

Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. Calls cost 50p per minute.

CHANGING TIMES





Peter Hall won't vote as a protest at the low priority given to culture by Labour and Tories alike. Richard Attenborough disagrees

regret that there should be a chink of disagreement between Sir Peter Hall and myself about the arts in the UK. I fear, however, on reading his article of March 8. that there are several. Not to vote at all, his stated intention, surely is not on and failing to differentiate between this Government, both sleazy and inept, and a Labour altemative seems to me inconceivable.

I sat next to Sir Peter at a Garrick Club luncheon in honour of Sir John Gielgod's investiture with the Order of Merit. Sir Peter was again voicing his incontrovertible plea for the underpinning of our provincial theatres. And of course he is due all praise for his dogged commitment to their continued survival. As Equity is at present making plain. their very existence has for far too long been dependent on paying actors salaries so low as to be totally unacceptable.

Sir Peter is correct in his anxiety. Provincial theatres, now that we have lost our invaluable repertory

Believe me: Blair cares about the arts network, are the essential routes to

our great national companies. Any arts policy that fails to recognise this fact (which Mark Fisher, Shadow Minister for the Arts, most certainly does) lacks all credibility. But the problem starts even further subsidy from the lottery.

earlier. Tony Blair, in his speech at the Mansion House in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the British Screen Advisory Council, acknowledged the ludicrous anomaly of the absence of mandatory grants for dance and drama students and undertook to do some-The latest proposal announced

by Virginia Bottomley goes some way to rectifying the situation, although not nearly far enough. It also promulgates the use of National Lottery funds for this purpose rather than the total change of government policy which is patently necessary and long overdue. How ludicrous that a young aspiring actor should be debarred from a drama school grant if his or her local authority declines to offer the initial sum which, under this proposal, is the only entry route to

I had been under the impression - wrongly, of course — that the Heritage Department's concern was first and foremost the provision of support for these students. But I can only presume that Mrs Bottomley sees their plight as a useful weapon in her covert battle with local authorities.

A Secretary of State who refers to Mr Blair's speech as merely a "luvvies" charter" betrays a total lack of respect for the very constituency she is supposed to serve. ed so famously by Margaret

What a discourteous, insulting reference to the acting profession.

Sir Peter lamented in his article that Mr Blair did not come up with the goods in his speech at the Mansion House - "the goods" being an acknowledgement that the arts are in crisis. But what he has failed to recognise is the unique commitment expressed on that occasion. Never in my lifetime have I heard a British political leader so clearly state: "The arts and cultural industries have been on the sidelines for too long. They are not peripheral to our lives. I want them to be part of the main agenda."

For 18 years, until the advent of the lottery, the arts were scarcely on the Government's agenda, mainly owing to the philosophy There is no such thing as society", articulat-

freshingly: "Art and society go together... And we believe in

Sir Peter quite rightly begrudges paying £150 a ticket for a subsidised Royal Opera House. Surely Mr Blair speaks to his condition when he says: "What is elitist is a society in which art is hoarded for the few and never experienced by the many. Don't blame art. Change society.

The Labour leader has also declared his commitment to public service broadcasting. In addition he has given an undertaking that, if in power, he will reinstate our membership of Eurimage, from which Mrs Bottomley so disastrously has removed us. Renewed membership of this organisation. which fosters and partly finances

EC production, will benefit our film industry enormously. He went on to state that, as a principle, the lottery would not be used to supplant essential government backing of the arts. When appropriate, it would be utilised to make available additional support "to shape the development of the arts in the interests of the broad

Mr Blair's views are absolutely clear. The passion of any government he leads will be education and he believes the arts to be an essential part of education. It was unfortunate, after his wide-ranging Mansion House speech, that Nesta, the proposed National Endowment for Science. Humanities and the Arts, was the only element that was widely reported. And not unnaturally, because the Nesta concept is

majority of people".

timed for the millennium, this created Sir Peter's impression of "jam tomorrow". It would be naive to expect Mr Blair to make promises of hard cash for the arts at this point, nor would anyone of good sense wish him to. We have had enough of broken promises. But no one can doubt his overall intentions and conviction. I certainly do not. And, unlike Sir Peter, I am convinced there is a massive difference of priority in regard to the arts between Left and Right.

Peter, if you don't believe things can and must change for the better. then don't bother to vote. But I simply cannot accept that you are right to opt out. I know that Labour, in addition to its determination to tackle all the other things. so wrong with our country today, does genuinely care about the arts. For all of us who have fought to preserve them, it is our best chance for the future.

Lord Attenborough takes the Labour whip in the Lords.

The true test of primary schools

Roger Scruton fears that our stock

of knowledge is being destroyed

nly at one primary school in a thousand do children consistently reach the standards now required of them, and church schools are by far the best in the league. These facts give a telling picture of what has really happened to British education, and why. David Blunkett is obliged by his position to blame the mess on the Tories but he knows that the causes lie far deeper than party politics, and that education ministers who have tried to amend things have always been so fiercely resisted by teachers, civil servants and the educational bureaucracy that their efforts have come to naught.

Since the late 1950s our education system has fallen into the hands of an egalitarian Establishment dedicated to the destruction of traditional elites and with its political voice in the Labour Party. It achieved its greatest triumph with Labour's successful assault on the grammar schools, and with the herding of children into comprehensives.

It has been conclusively shown by Dr John Marks and others that comprehensivisation damaged the educational opportunities of all children — and not just those who would have attended a grammar school. But the relevant research was unscrupulously rubbished by the civil servants. Having destroyed secondary education, it was only natural that the egalitarians should turn their attention to primary education, too.

Fraditional ways of teaching children to read were displaced by the "look and say" and "whole language" methods, which appeal to progressive teachers precisely because they put every child on an equal footing with the mentally retarded. The Plowden report - a piece of sentimental guff that assumed the status of a sacred text - advocated "child-centred" learning, and so encouraged schools to stay at the level of their intake, rather than at the level to which their intake should aspire. Old ideas of discipline were displaced, so that troublemakers could obtain

equal status with their victims.

The Establishment achieved another triumph. It became illegal for state schools to employ any teacher who had not attended a college of education. Those with genuine knowledge were thereby driven out of the system; what serious graduate would want to sit through the year of drivel provided by a college of education?

The process went hand in hand with the bureaucratisation of the schools - to the point where the state system is overloaded with meddlesome advisers and administrators. The educational bureaucracy is steeped in the same egalitarian dogmas as the National Union of Teachers and the education colleges. All have joined Labour in opposing the Conservative attempt to assess the educational attain-

ments of schoolchildren, and all remain rootedly hostile to the only real solution to our present problem: the complete and immediate

privatisation of the schools. And that is why we should be wary of the Labour Party. For it has spearheaded all the "reforms" which brought about the present catastrophe, and has no real proposals for the future, apart from the threat to remove charitable status from public schools. Hostility to traditional elites remains the most important motive behind its educational thinking. But such elites are the friends of education. The public schools were the model for the grammar schools, and their pursuit of learning for its own sake. In other words, not child-centred, but subject-centred learning has played a part in ensuring that our country has been governed, until now, by a genuinely educated class.

The state sector was successful so long as it tried to emulate the private sector, modelling curriculum, ethos and discipline on the standards set by the private schools. But the Establishment that controls the state sector is hostile to private education, which it sees as confining education to those who can pay for it. This view is correct, but only because the destruction of the state sector has caused education to be increasingly monopolised by the upper classes.

hurch of England, Roman Catholic and Jewish prima ries do well because they mostly adhere to traditional teaching methods, standards of discipline, and dress codes. They recognise the place of religion, assembly and prayers in creating the ethos of a school, and in providing children with the examples which will make learning worthwhile. They are the least "child-centred" of our primary schools, and are in the business not of making childhood permanent, but of helping children out of it. We should recognise that there

are essentially two views about the role of education in society, and that Labour has consistently espoused the wrong one. The right view sees education as a means to conserve and enhance our legacy of knowledge. The wrong view sees education as a means to provide advantages. Those who take the wrong view are happy to see knowledge disappear, just so long as chil-dren are equal in their lack of it. Those with the right view recognise that knowledge can be conserved only if clever children are given the best chance to acquire it. When the wrong view prevails, knowledge disappears, as it is doing from Britain. The effect of this can already be witnessed in the moronisation of popular culture; in due course it will be observed in all our national institutions, in the economy, in social and political life, and in our final lapse into barbarism.

Delights of Venetian decay

The crumbling stones of Venice,

like the poor of

Vietnam, still arouse our awe

enice on Monday was al dente. The air was crisp, the sun on San Mark's cool and penetrating. At this time of year, Italian tourism is still an individual rather than a collective noun. We do not have to queue to breathe. The bride of the sea allows us space to admire her wrinkles.

The older I get, the more I feel a connoisseur of oldness. Last autumn I visited another antique place, north Vietnam. While Venice's wrinkles are etched in brick and stone, Vietnam's are those of a way of life. Venice's charm is that of slowly degenerating splendour. Vietnam's charm is of a rapidly vanishing medievalism, of women still wading in rice fields, of mudwalled villages with rush-mat lanes, of ox carts, of food cooked outdoors, of laughing, unshod children. It is the picturesque charm of other people's poverty.

Such pleasure is hard to defend. It cannot be explained as only admiration for beauty or for past history. In both cases, the thrill is of an encompassing antiquity. When I first visited Venice, I thought I knew what to expect. Yet the eccentricity stunned me. Cities on land we understand. They evolved from chariots to jet planes without too much damage to their essence. Venice is utterly obsolete. In 1855 the city fathers almost succeeded in

building a boulevard down the Grand Canal and a rail bridge to the Lido. The proposal failed. Today's Venice is a monument to that failure. As Hugh Honour wrote in his Companion Guide. when we remember Venice we recall not its treasures "but the city and the lagoon". decaying canals, flickering candles, dark alleys and bright quays. The appeal is not just of beauty but of sheer oddness.

Some find such antiquarianism obscene. They believe that Venice should fall as it rose, with the tide of history. James Cameron in an early film of Venice told the place to die in peace, to slide with dignity beneath the waters. "Let it go," he said. "And let our generation glory in being the last to have seen it as it was." Since then the population of old Venice has halved. This has been accompanied by an effort to prop up buildings that are unlikely ever to be occupied. The city becomes ever more ersatz. As it empties. Venice's reason for existing is to celebrate the absence of a reason for existing. It will be for urban necrophiliacs.

If that is all. I shudder at how to describe my affection for Vietnam. Only in the remoter parts of India have I encountered landscape so



The appeal of Venice is not just its beauty, but its sheer oddness: decaying canals, flickering candles, dark alleys and bright quays

crete or other modern conveniences. Vietnam is free of India's obtrusive destitution. Every village smiles hospitality. Mountains rise sheer from paddy fields. The land seems to have been lifted from a medieval painting and frozen by half a century of colonialism and communism. From the Perfume Pagoda in the Mountain of Fragrant Traces down to the sea at the Gulf of Tonkin, relics of man and nature are only now being marked for visiting and tourist exploitation.

As such they are doomed. Just as the ancient economy of Venice could not survive motor cars and tourists, so what

appeals to the Vestern visitor in Vietnam cannot last. Like a tomb long hidden from view, it will dissolve on first contact with light. Concrete towers are now rising over Hanoi as

party officials corruptly breach their own conservation laws. Rural villages are swept by Tarmac roads, bringing motorbikes to car-ry peasants and their children off to

bs in towns. On the 20-mile shore of Ha Long Bay, 3,000 dragon's teeth islands march across a turquoise horizon. It is the most sublime seascape I know. Until now this shoreline was as Joseph Conrad might have seen it, with only an oily steamer (or an American bomber) intruding

untouched by cars, chemicals, con- on ancient fishing settlements. Today promenades are covering the shore, launches and holiday camps are arriving, new hotels are spewing untreated sewage and plastic into the bay. Ha Long is a Unesco "World Heritage Site", but the cause is hopeless. As the aspic of communism dissolves, it is supplanted by total decontrol, by Asia's philistine commercialism. Some

> These thoughts are, I know, outrageous. How dare we delight in the poverty or decay of other people's cultures. When I marvel at the picturesque integrity of a Viet-

Vietnamese may be richer. I won-

der how many.

namese village, I am surely like Captain Cook, seeking noble savages" to bring back to display at London dinner parties. I ought to deplore the rats and welcome any development that

up the World Bank league table. As for the attention lavished on the empty palazzi of the Grand Canal. this is inexcusable when millions of Italians live in greater squalour. Such Grand Tour revivalism is shameful.

I am not ashamed. An observer this debate, the geographer Richard Lowenthal, wrote recently that a fascination with the past is not just an "act of mourning for worlds known to be irrevocably lost". For most people, not just those educated in history, these worlds are "more vividly felt, more lucid, more real than the murky and ambiguous present".

The historian Raphael Samuel went even further. In his Theatres of Memory he pointed out that ruined castles, steam trains, old music, battlefield tours and folklore festivals are part and parcel of popular culture. Fusion of past with present is the essence of our sense of place, of family, home and community. As we get richer and have more leisure, we spend it searching out capsules of past cultures, if only because "the past is a foreign country" and we like to

Strangest of these cultures are those whose picturesqueness lies partly in their poverty and decay. That is why Westerners now travel as far as India and Vietnam to search them out. Since they echo a past that is becoming thankfully more rare, they have become precious. Vietnam's urban and rural villages remind us of England before the Industrial Revolution. They are without privacy. sanitation, machines or easy mobility. They are also tight-knit and family-controlled.

Certainly, their inhabitants want to escape to the wealth of the city. They may welcome the World Bank bulldozers that will raze their villages and obliterate their way of life. But that does not strip the world they are fleeing of its values or its charm. The poor of Venice likewise deserted its damp tenements and rancid canals to the

smart suburbs of the mainland. Perhaps such depopulation should not be called sad. Suggestions by Venice in Peril that the poor should be encouraged back into the old city have about them a touch of guilt. Tourism has helped to empty the city and now tourists want the poor returned to give more authenticity to the street scene. Venice will not recover that sort of normality. But that does not make it any less beautiful or the battle to preserve it any less worthwhile.

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William Will

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e do not love such places simply because they are old, or because they tell us how far we have travelled up the path to civilisation. Brought up as an historian, I believe that the past is littered with signposts to the future. Europe is full of such signposts. They tell us that the route to instant higher disposable income may not, in retrospect, have been the one we were glad we took. Ask the resident of any English city.

Accusing Vietnam of being about to wreck its most beautiful places may seem condescending. From a Westerner it may seem insufferably smug. Yet had Venice been destroyed when Ruskin warned of the ruination of her honour" in the last century, Italy would now regard itself as immeasurably the poorer. So too would the whole world.

In its quest for wealth, Vietnam isfacing precisely that impoverishment. We should tell it so.

Devil's work

WHILE filming recently in Belfast, Brad Pitt, a leading Hollywood actor, was punched by a couple of Irish toughs who mistook him for a Protestant.

Pitt, who is alleged to find favour with many female moviegoers, was undercover at the time, researching his role in a forthcoming film,



Brad Pitt: in the wars

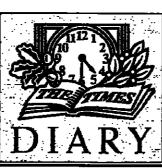
In it he plays a young man who, after seeing his father shot dead by the security forces, becomes an IRA terrorist. Having become the most wanted man in Britain, he then flees to America and his uncle, played by Harrison Ford. When the \$70 million film, which

is said to be largely sympathetic to the IRA, was in the can, Pitt called it a "disaster" and the "most irresponsible bit of film-making" he'd ever seen.

Now he is taking his promotion duties seriously, saying: "I'm speaking for this situation that's gone on for years. I felt a huge responsibility for that."

As to the assault, in an interview with Rolling Stone magazine, Pitt says: "At one point I stop at a Protestant bookstore. I look in the window for two seconds. Boom! I get this wing from two Catholic guys. It about knocked me over. They just kept on walking. You know that walk?"

At this point in the interview, Pitt

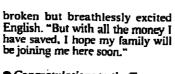


room, elbows out, like a chicken. adding, "When you're pumped?"

Man of letters

SOME good news for the troubled Albanian President Sali Berisha. His young cousin, Boojab Berisha, has graduated from his job as a Federal Express mail-boy in New York to become a junior reporter on Illyria, an Albanian newsletter published in the city.

The young Berisha fled to the States several years ago and has since done a selection of menial jobs in order to earn money to send back to his family in Albania. "Sadgets up and struts around the ly, I cannot go back," he says in



 Congratulations to the Treasury minister Phillip Oppenheim on the victory of his collie cross-breed. Vom, in the Westminster Dog of the Year competition. The dog was given to him as a puppy by one of his Amber Valley constituents. But why call it Vom? "It's short for



"You mean this rally wasn't a red nose day stunt?

Vomit," says a close friend of Oppenheim. "Some people think it's a German name, but it isn't. Phillip played a lot of rugby in his youth and he thought Vom was a cuddly sort of name."

Lock out

SURREAL scenes in the Whitehall gloaming on Thursday as guests arrived for the Prime Minister's dinner in honour of the Saudi Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud to find the Downing Street gates firmly locked. What looked like a gaggle of wea-

ried human rights protesters was in fact the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the bullish Lord King of Wartnaby, formerly of British Airways, and some impressive-looking Arab guests in full desert rig. all unable to get through to dinner. On the invitation, they had been instructed to arrive before 7.25. This lot had come at 7.20, neither embarrassingly early nor danger-

ously late. After some awkward shuffling and talk of the weather, they were



William Hague and his fiancée Ffion Jenkins: divided

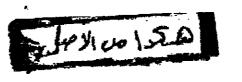
eventually waved through to an apologetic No 10.

No leaks

THE loyalties of William Hague, Secretary of State of Wales, will be strained at Cardiff Arms Park this afternoon as he watches England play Wales with Flion Jenkins. his fiancee. As a Yorkshireman, he should back England. His political office, and more importantly his future wife and family, would suggest he cheers for the Reds.

It was precisely for occasions such as these that Miss Jenkins taught Hague the words to Mae Hen Wlad fy Nhadau - Land of My Fathers. It was during rehearsals that Hague reportedly developed a more than purely prolessional admiration for her-

"He will be singing the Welsh national anthem, "says his press officer, "and clapping in the right places. But I expect at the end of the game his face will be a mask."





PERILS OF THE SALOON

The difference between populist instinct and civil abuse

Careless talk of "IRA scum" and ill-judged comparisons with Myra Hindley may not cost Tory votes; but a price is surely paid in dignity. For every citizen concerned that a Home Office minister has prejudged the guilt of a suspected terrorist there will be others who say that he is right to put victims first. Whatever the pollster's calculation. David Maclean's behaviour is unjustified. A feel for populist instincts is a necessary part of a politician's make-up; but even more so is a respect for the civilised formulae on which liberal democracy depends.

Mr Maclean is only the latest Conservative politician this month to position himself squarely in the saloon bar. In their own, very different ways, the backbenchers Nicholas Budgen and David Evans have spoken to their constituents' viscera. It is a dangerous exercise, and in their case, even more than Mr Maclean's, likely to bear only bitter fruit.

Mr Maclean's comments would have been clumsy delivered off the cuff. In print, albeit in private correspondence, they are deeply regrettable. Roisin McAliskey has not yet been convicted of terrorism. Mr Maclean nevertheless suggests in a letter to a constituent that Ms McAliskey is unworthy of public sympathy. Even on a crude assessment of consequences, the minister was foolish to express such sentiments. His words will, in some Irish eyes, give republicans the oxygen of credibility. IRA propagandists have always alleged that British justice is administered by men who prefer deep prejudice to due process.

Politicians, of course, have a duty to acknowledge society's prejudices. A government which enthroned reason and neglected the language of the heart or the pull of the gut would soon forfeit the people's trust. Worse, without political sensitivity to genuine concerns on security and identity, these passions will in the words of John Biffen become "the possession of darker forces outside the established polity". Political wisdom resides in knowing how to speak to tunes to sing than terrace chants.

the nation's fears without being dictated to by them.

In that light, David Maclean is faithful to the feel of any Tory postbag in expressing sincere anger at the leverage exercised within elite circles by lobby groups for prisoners. He would, however, be a better politician if he was also capable of recognising in his writing that one of the civilised principles that terrorism threatens is the presumption of innocence until proven otherwise.

A feel for the Tory pulse is also attributed to David Evans and Nicholas Budgen by their defenders. Both have been attacked for playing the race card, Mr Evans with a racist obscenity to a school audience, Mr Budgen for asking the Tories to make immigration an election issue. Mr Evans's conduct has been explained away by some Tories as a reflection of his constituents' genuine but hidden feelings, the hate that dare not speak its name. Although he spoke out of turn, they say, he only spoke for his people. Others may think so, but it is unlikely that he spoke for anything other than a minority; a genuine racial tolerance distinguishes most parts of British life. Even if he did reflect a strain of popular feeling, he did so with a crude vulgarity that revolts.

Nicholas Budgen is not a vulgarian, but his own attempt to turn differences between the parties on immigration into a Tory rallying point is ill-judged. It may well be possible to take issue with Labour's proposals to relax immigration regulations at the margins. Mr Budgen may sincerely believe that it is only the strictest of policies which guarantees good race relations. But if there is one act which will certainly inflame racial feeling, it is throwing delicate questions of immigration policy into the cauldron of the election campaign. The public mood has, in any case, changed since Enoch Powell could engineer swings in the West Midlands by dressing racist sentiments in a toga. The party of One Nation has better

TO UNITE THE JEWS

If the Chief Rabbi cannot, who can?

The festival of Purim is when Jews celebrate their ancestors' deliverance from the Persians. It was Esther, the Israelite Queen of the Persian King Ahasuerus, whose ingenuity saved her nation from destruction. Her fortitude — "If I perish, I perish" — has been an inspiration in this century. The late hiugo Gryn - broadcaster, Reform rabbi and Auschwitz survivor - devoted his life to healing the wounds left by the Holocaust.

The passing of such a man ought to have tions to bury their disputes. It was not. By attempting to honour his friend Hugo Gryn not as a Reform rabbi but as a human being, the Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, has found himself denounced from both wings of the Jewish community. First he evoked protests from some Progressive rabbis by not attending the funeral. Then he dismayed not only the ultra-Orthodox minority, but also some Orthodox rabbis of his own majority United Hebrew Congregations, by eulogising Gryn at a secular memorial meeting.

. .

Yesterday the Jewish Chronicle published a private letter in rabbinical Hebrew from Dr Sacks to Dayan Chanoch Padwa, an ultra-Orthodox leader, which used strong language about "those who destroy the faith" and appeared to be at odds with his public praise for Gryn. The Chronicle accused Dr Sacks of treating "respect for fellow Jews" as "merely a public duty", and acting as though it could be "contradicted outright behind closed doors". One senior Reform rabbi has now called for the creation of a separate progressive chief rabbinate. which would cause a formal, permanent and irrevocable split in the Jewish community,

not just in Britain but throughout the Commonwealth. Though most Progressive rabbis have not echoed this divisive proposal, the impression has been given that the Chief Rabbi has sacrificed principle for "diplomacy". This is damaging, not just to Dr Sacks, but to the image of Anglo-Jewry.

Those who accuse the Chief Rabbi of hypocrisy should recall his speech at the Hugo Gryn memorial meeting, where he said: "In the months that led up to this evening I tried in many ways, through privat conversations and correspondence, to carry the various groups in our community with me, however difficult the task. With hindsight I now know that I tried too hard. I made regrettable mistakes. And my attempts to bring peace failed." Thus even before the offending letter was published, Dr Sacks in effect admitted that he had gone too far to appease the unappeasable. His end did not justify the means. The letter was indeed a mistake. But it was written for honourable motives. It should not be taken as a definitive statement. A Chief Rabbi must be big enough to learn from his mistakes. This one is. Esther would have understood him.

The Times has often expressed admiration for Jonathan Sacks. It is rare enough for a religious leader to earn the respect of believers and atheists alike; but the resonance enjoyed by his new book. The Politics of Hope, is proof of that. If a man of his courage and wisdom cannot reconcile the various traditions of Judaism, even for quite limited purposes (supporting Israel. opposing anti-Semitism), then the outlook is bleak for Anglo-Jewry. As the proverb has it "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

SCRUM DOWN FOR HISTORY

To stand still is to lose: in rugby and the game of life

The triple crown and the five nations championship crunch to a climax thisafternoon. This rugby season has shown that, contrary to reports, there is still life in the old game in the northern hemisphere. Much remains to play for on this last Saturday of the international season. A Scottish win in Paris could give England the championship. A Welsh victory in Cardiff would deny England the triple crown. Either would save Celtic face, and crown campaigns which will otherwise end in disappointment. So national pride is at stake, and so are individual places on the Lions' summer tour to the unforgiving arena of South Africa. Old warriors such as Jonathan Davies and Will Carling may hang up their

international boots tonight. And next season everything will be changed. As usual there will be new players coming on, new hopes and pernickety new laws. But two of the cathedrals of the game will be utterly changed. Cardiff Arms Park is to be turned through 90 degrees and rebuilt as a superdome for the World Cup. And after today's match French rugby will leave the Parc des Princes to return to the north of Paris, at the new Stade de France. These moves reflect the growing popularity, suc-

cess and money in the game. Rugby stadiums are not really much like cathedrals. They are concrete sports factories, malodorous, and not numinous when empty. But both places are haunted by the history and folklore of the game. The best

singing of the most rousing tribal anthems has always been heard at Cardiff and Paris. Cardiff Arms Park, in the centre of town, goes back more than 113 years to the beginning of rugby. Generations of Welshmen have trooped there to triumph or disaster - until recently, more often the former. Great tries and famous victories there echo in the memory and congest the records.

The Parc des Princes has been used for internationals only since 1972. And it is a long way from the heartland of national rugby in southwest France, not in the centre of it as the once and future Arms Park is. But it too has its ghosts. Jean-Pierre Rives with his blond hair, often bloodied, always shone first to the centre of the mauls and rucks. Or Serge Blanco started to run, kick and chase from the most unpromising positions. For rugby exemplifies broader national characteristics. French rugby displays cavalry dash and unreliability. Scotland play with rising ferocity when they are losing. Jonathan Davies is just the latest of the line of springheeled Welsh half backs who have danced through the world's best and then fed the ball out. When the spirit moves them, and their wind is up, the Irish can rampage over the best. And England, the pioneers, can display their native virtues of discipline. interactive teamwork and bulldog efficiency.

This afternoon's hour and a half of passionate intensity in Cardiff and Paris is only sport. But sport too has its lasting glories as well as its transient parables.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ه كذا من الإصلية

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Parallel texts and a fictional life

From Professor John From

Sir. May I clarify the criticisms that I made of Graham Swift's Last Orders and which you reported ("Booker winner denies plot 'theft'". Murch 10). I have quite explicitly not accused

Mr Swift of plagiarism. Nor should it be assumed that I believe there is a problem in principle with writers making free use of earlier literary materials. To the contrary, much of my own theoretical work has been concerned with the way literary texts are built out of other texts, a process which I see as entirely normal and appropriate; I do not seek in any way to proscribe "borrowing" or imitation.

There are, however, certain cultural and ultimately ethical conventions that govern the uses made of earlier texts. My problem with Last Orders is not just that it is, in its plot and its formal structure, a close imitation of the plot and the formal structure of William Faulkner's As I Lay Dying, but that this imitation is pointless and unproductive.

Had it carried some thematic relevance - for example, by challenging or transforming Faulkner's modernist perspectivalism, or by setting up a parallel or contrast between Faulkner's American South and Swift's South of England - the closeness of the imitation would have been perfectly justified. In my judgment it does not curry any such relevance, and the horrowing is neither interesting nor appropriate.

Yours faithfully, JOHN FROW, The University of Queensland, Department of English, Queensland, QLD 4072.

From Mr Roger Betteridge

Sir, Ian Murray (Writer bred on sound and fury of Deep South", early editions, March 10) gives credence to Faulkner's fabrication that as a Royal Flying Corps pilot he was more than once shot down.

Faulkner served 179 days as a trainee on course 42 at No 4 School of Military Aeronautics, Toronto University. Apparently he never in that time left terra firma. Nevertheless, back in Oxford, Mississippi, after the First World War he affected the stigmata of distinguished combat.

His commission was bogus, his RFC uniform expensively cut in Memphis, his limp affected, his stick finest hickory. The metal plate in his head was also bogus, the consequent loss of memory induced rather by the bottle.

His imagined exploits grew ever more outlandish, from "crashing in France, falling uninjured through a peasant's Sunday dinner* to celebrating the Armistice "by taking up a rotary-motored Spad with a crock of Bourbon in the cockpit" (Faulkner, a biography, by Joseph Blotner, Random House, 1984).

The excellent Bookshop on the Square in Oxford keeps his original bogus wings insignia, presented by Faulkner. There are other bogus wings in Faulkner's former house and a shop in Oxford.

From time to time on visits I touch the Bookshop's wings, reminding myself that, in the shifting sands of Faulkner scholarship, these at least

Yours faithfully. ROGER BETTERIDGE, 2 Cavendish Court. Shardlow, Derhyshire, March 10.

Trial by jury

From His Honour Derek Clarkson, QC

Sir The seven-member jury referred to by Mr John Letts (letter, March 11) was in fact used for some years after 1945. I believe until the emergency legislation ceased to have effect. The only exception was at a trial for

Although the juries of seven seem to have worked well enough, trials were then much shorter and less complicated than those of today. The risk. of course, is of illness or some other matter arising during a trial that reduces the number of jurors.

Seven is too few, but I have often thought in recent years that juries of ten would be enough.

Yours sincerely. DEREK CLARKSON, 72a Cornwall Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, March II.

From Mrs J. Melrose, JP

Sir, In local courts, three people sit together and deal with approximately On per cent of the crime in this country. They are unpaid lay people living in the local community, dealing with their occry.

Is the discussion on the merits of being rited by a jury a little unbalanced?

JEAN MITROSE. Tibbers Oak, The Downs, Leatherhead, Surrey, March II.

Weekend Money letters, page 46

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -0171-782 5046

Secret legacy of captured U-boat

From Mr Nicholas Roskill

Sir, Your obituary of Captain A. J. Baker-Cresswell (March 6) dwells at length, and rightly, on the extremely important naval action on May 9, 1941, in which the German submarine U110 was captured and its Enigma machine fell into our hands. The first volume of the official naval history, The War at Sea, written by my father, Captain Stephen Roskill and published in 1954, merely states that U110 was sunk by the escorts to convoy OB318. The capture of U110 was such a closely guarded secret that my father told me he never knew about it at the time he was writing the official history.

Some years later he learnt the truth and was allowed to publish The Secret Capture (Collins, 1959), which des-cribed the action in detail. But even then he could say little about the material which was removed from the Uhoat, beyond describing it as being "of priceless value to our Intelligence authorities". The book is dedicated to Captain Baker-Cresswell and to the officers and men of the 3rd Escort Group.

Other Enigma material had been cantured in 1941, from the armed trawler Krebs in the Lofoten Islands raid on March 4 and from the weather-ship München on May 7. My understanding now is that these successes gave us the ability to break many of the German codes quickly by the middle of 1941. The U110 capture enabled us in addition to read the highly important officer-only signals.

There is something of a mystery about the death of Lemp, the captain of U110. My father was evidently unaware of the story in your obituary that he was killed by Lewis-gun fire from HMS Bulldog. The Secret Capture says that he was seen swimming in the water. This statement is

supported by a letter to The Daily Telegraph (November 11, 1988) from David Balme, who led the boarding party from HMS Bulldog: Balme put forward the view that Lemp committed suicide in the water, and wholly refuted a theory that he was shot by the boarding party.

Captain Baker-Cresswell returned Lemp's Iron Cross, found in U110, to

Yours sincerely, NICHOLAS ROSKILL 56 Grove Lane, SE5.

the vicinity of convoy OB318 was first disclosed when one of her torpedoes struck the SS Esmond.

The crew of the Esmond took to the boats. I was First Lieutenant of the corvette Aubricia which was stationed close on the starboard side of the Esmond (and incidentally took the photograph of Bulldog lowering a boat to board L'110 which you used with the obituary). After Aubrietia had brought L'110 to the surface with depth charges we rescued the German crew from the water and then the crew of the Esmond from their boats.

The Chief Officer of the Esmond was Barry Copeland, who had been Third Mate of the Athenia when she was sunk by Kapitānleutnant Lemp. Thus during the first two years of the war Barry Copeland served in, and survived the sinking of, two ships by the same German U-boat captain.

Yours faithfully, BARRY SHEEN, 107 Rivermead Court,

One of a kind

From Dr Jim Hague

Sir. I must disagree with Professor Peter Yates's assertion that members of a clone remain one individual and. if human, should have only one vote and one pension (letter, March 7; see also letter, March 11). On purely practical grounds it would cause me some difficulty if my wife and her identical twin were suddenly held to be legally the same individual.

I can promise your readers they are quite definitely separate individuals. They also tell me that it's rather nice to have a clone.

Yours faithfully, JIM HAGUE, 10 Romford Road, Epping. New South Wales, NSW 2121.

From Mr Nathan Griggs

'Equal rights for clones!'

Sir. Professor Yates asserts that: "Members of a clone ... remain one individual and, if human, should have only one vote and one pension." Aircady, alas, I can see the placards and hear the distant but growing cry:

Yours faithfully. NATHAN GRIGGS. 48 Hillcrest, Baker Street. Weybridge, Surrey. March II.

From Professor George Fink, FRSE Sir, The report of the first human clone was published in Genesis ii,

Abbess Héloïse

From Mr J. M. B. Porter

Sir, Peter Abelard was indeed an abbot, for he left his hermitage at the Paraclete when he was elected abbot of St Gildas-de-Rhuys, ca 1125-27, but Roger Scruton (book review, March 6) has underestimated the ecclesiastical status of his wife Héloïse.

He is correct in describing her as a prioress, for she held that office at Argenteuil until the nuns there were expelled by Abbot Suger of St Denis, Abelard's former monastery. After their expulsion, she and some

but not all - of the evicted nuns established a new convent on the site of Abelard's abandoned hermitage and Héloïse became their abbess. During her lifetime, the Paraclete

expanded into a small monastic order with six dependent houses. Yours faithfully.

J. M. B. PORTER. University of Nottingham, Department of History, University Park, Nottingham. March 7.

Christian charity

From Mr N. B. C. Evelegh

Sir, Bravo to Libby Purves for her usual humanitarian good sense in her article (March 11) on Cardinal Thomas Winning's offer of help to women contemplating abortion.

However, would we not all respond hetter to her view that his offer is no more or less than straightforward Christianity and to the Cardinal's position on abortion if he also questioned his Church's discredited position on birth control?

Yours faithfully, NICK EVELEGH. Hodges Farmhouse, Frittenden, Cranbrook, Kent. March II.

Lemp's sister after the War.

From Sir Barry Sheen

Sir. The presence of U110, com-manded by Kapitanleutnant Lemp, in

Ranelagh Gardens, SW6.

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the place with flesh instead thereof.

And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from the man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And the man said: This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of

the Man." (Soncino edition of the Penta-teuch and Haftorahs, Dr J. H. Hertz, 1960.) As succinct and erudite as ever, the Bible takes for granted that the reader will understand that the replacement of the male (Y) by an additional female (X) chromosome in the cells of the male-derived rib will have been such a trivial exercise for God that it is

not worth recounting. Yours faithfully, GEUKGE FINK. 23 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh.

From Miss Barbara Wanford

Sir, If human babies were produced by cloning from their mothers we could dispense with the whole of the male population. Most of the world's dictators, criminals, scientists and armies would disappear.

There would be no more wars. However, before rushing headlong into this course of action, a word or two of caution should be noted. Who, for instance, would programme the

Yours faithfully, BARBARA WANFORD, Sneyd Park, Bristol. March 10.

Cutting the cake

From Lord Healey, CH

Sir, William Waldegrave's article ("Labour's liaison with Leviathan", March 13) was grossly misleading Far from the Labour Government in the Seventies taking "an ever rising share of the national income", as its Chancellor of the Exchequer 1 cut public spending as a share of GDP by per cent in five years, leaving my Conservative successor a level of 39.5 per cent -- 2 per cent lower than the level today.

As a result the average family in 1978-79 was paying 32.2 per cent of its income in direct and indirect taxation, compared with 34.3 per cent today.

So much for the "tax and spend" image Mr Waldegrave was trying to impose on Labour. I hope he is more scrupulous in his official role as Chief Secretary.

Yours sincerely, DENIS HEALEY, House of Lords. March 14.

By all means

From Mr John O'Reilly

Sir, David Green, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers fletter. March II), suggests road tunnels as a solution to London's traffic problem. Surely the M25 proves beyond all possible doubt that the only way to improve London travel is to reduce the volume of traffic.

Everyone living in or near big cities requires buses, trams, trains or the Tube in abundance.

Yours faithfully, JOHN O'REILLY, Stoneshott, Meadgate Road, Roydon, Essex. March 12.

Farmers who have a love of the land

From Sir John Acland

Sir, Thousands of smaller farmers, despite the fact that Simon Jenkins (article, March 8) seems to include them in his general condemnation of the industry, will agree with him that vast areas of the countryside have been wrecked, their character, flora and fauna destroyed; and that the motivating factor in this destruction has been, and is, greed.

On the farms they maintain, spray and fertilisers are sparingly used; trees, hedgerows and banks are cherished and there is real concern for the preservation of wildlife. Indeed, in numerical terms, there are probably more farmers who are concerned for these things than those who care for

none of them. The problem of course is the common agricultural policy which seems specifically designed to benefit big, already wealthy farmers and to feed their greed, principally through set-aside and arable payments. There is a simple, initial step which could be taken to improve matters: a fixed limit on which subsidies would be paid: anything above a relatively modest

acreage would attract nothing.

There is a clear precedent for this on the livestock side. The beef special premium is payable on and up to a maximum of 90 male beasts a year in each of two categories, whatever the size of the farm or the number of animals on it. In addition there is a stock-

ing limit per acre. Unfortunately the president of the National Farmers' Union opposes this, as do those government ministers who have expressed views on the subject. It is a sorry reflection on them that they do not recognise the obscenity of the sums paid to the big. rich.

land barons. So, while there is much in Simon Jenkins's article to be applauded, he should take more care to ensure that he does not alienate the thousands of farmers who would support his views and do not deserve his generalised

strictures. Yours faithfully. J. H. B. ACLAND, Feniton Court, Honiton, Devon.

From Mrs Virginia Lort Phillips

Sir, On March 7, 27 Pembrokeshire farming families, including mine. launched their holiday accommodation business at an environmental seminar. We declared that we are proud of our stewardship, value all the features of the land we manage and the creatures in and on it, and are ready to listen and adapt when modem science shows it to be necessary".

What Simon Jenkins says about the destruction of the countryside may be true in some areas, but on this farm alone we have planted 100,000 trees in recent years and we do not grub out hedges. We respect our tourists, need their business and are encouraged to see them go home understanding better how much we care.

Yet it was Sir Derek Barber, former chairman of the Countryside Commission, who said that an unprofitable farm is an unsustainable farm. Its forced sale to an incomer under a market regime containing no measures for support of conservation leads only to harsher exploitation, not

good stewardship.

Nothing would spell greater disaster for the appearance of the countryside and its enjoyment by the public than to force off it, by economic pressure, thousands of families who now care for it, and for planners to regulate

its management. Yours faithfully, VIRGINIA LORT PHILLIPS. Knowles Farm, Lawrenny, Kilgetty, Pembrokeshire.

All over the place

From Squadron Leader D. E. Kleboe. RAF (retd)

Sir. The letter from Mr Harry Ganz (March 8) about his parcel that went to the West Indies instead of west London reminds me of a wartime incident. A pilot ferrying a Lancaster bomber from Canada to England had the misfortune to damage his aircraft against a snowbank in Gander, Newfoundland. As a punishment it was decided that he should spend two months in Greenland at an airfield code-named Bluie West One, normally abbreviated to BW1.

I don't know the details of the administrative process involved but he duly arrived, not in BWI Greenland but in Trinidad, BWI, where I was the RAF Signals Officer.

Yours faithfully. D. E. KLEBOĚ, 68 Ashcombe Road Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. March 10.

Political satyr

From Mr Matthew Still

Sir. The Greek god Pan contributed more to the English language than a wonderful chapter in The Wind in the Willows (Philip Howard, March 14). "Panic" is probably an apt use of Pan's legacy when referring to Tony Blair.

Yours sincerely. M. STILL Lockers End, Overton Road, Ibstock, Leicester.

Mr A.G. Lucas

City.

Mr J.J. Hale

and Miss E.T. Schmitz

The engagement is onnounced and

the marriage will take place in July

in Pine Plains, New York, between

George, youngest son of the Hon-ivor and Mrs Lucas, of Wimble

don, London, and Elisabeth, edest

daughter of Mr Charles Schmitz.

of Washington DC, and Mrs

and Miss A.L. Heys
The engagement is announced

between John Justin, son of Profes-

sor Sir John and Lady Hale, of

Twickenham, Middleser, and Amanda Louise, younger daugh-ter of Mr and Mrs Basil Heys, of

East Molesey, Surrey.

and Miss J.A. Veale

Mrs J.C. Veale, of Ascot

Mr D.E.P. Francis

Rectory, Hertfordshire.

Mr A.M.S. Hindmarch

and Miss V.J. Noël

Somerset

Mr J. McLanghan

and Miss A. Osborne

and Miss J.V. Abbott

The engagement is announ

T.P. Booth, of Newton Abbott, and

Mrs J.E. Booth, of Ascot, and

Juliet, eldest daughter of Mr and

Mr S.P. Booth

Barbara Putnam. of New York



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 14: His Excellency Pehin Dato Jaya Abdul Latif was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from Brunei Darussalam to

the Court of St James's. Datin Halimah Jaya was also received by Her Majesty. Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs)

The Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew MP (Secretary of State for Northern Ireland) had an Audience of The Oueen.

This afternoon The Queen visited Reed's School, Cobham. and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey (Mr Richard Thornton), the Chairman of Governors (the Viscount Bridgeman, the Headmaster (Mr David Princel and the Mayor of Elmbridge (Councillor Hugh

The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International. this morning attended a board meeting of World Wide Fund for Nature — Japan at the Tokyo City Club. His Royal Highness. Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees, later attended a Luncheon for The Duke Edinburgh's Award International Association at the Intercontinental Hotel, Tokyo Bay.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, this afternoon gave a Press Conference for World Wide Fund for Nature. His Royal Highness was later received by The Emperor and Empress of Japan at the Imperial Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh this

evening attended a Dinner for Word Wide Fund for Nature. BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 13: The Duke of York this evening presented the Biennial

Memorial service

A memorial service for Lord

Kinnaird was held yesterday in

Rossie Priory Chapel. Perthshire.

The Right Rev Ted Luscombe officiated and gave an address.

Staib, sons-in-law, read the les-sons. The Hon Mrs Best, daugh-

Guild of Air Pilots and

The following have been installed officers of the Guild of Air Pilots

and Air Navigators for the ensuing

Master, Mr Ronald Bridge: Mas-

ter-elect, Captain Rodley Fulton,

Wardens. Air Marshal Sir Donald

Hall, Captain John Hutchinson

To mark the Centenary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone.

Christ's Hospital Partnership is proposing to publish a Directory of

All Old Blues. If you have not yet

received details, please contact the Partnership Office on: 01403-

and Mr Arthur Thorning.

Christ's Hospital

Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Miss Glynne Evans, 52, at present on subbatical at the International

Institute for Strategic Studies, to be

Ambassador to the Republic of

Chile in succession to Mr Frank

Wheeler, who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service. She will

take up her post at the end of May.

Professor Christopher Frayling, in his capacity as Rector of the Royal College of Art, to be an ex-

officio member of the board of trustees of the Victoria and Albert

Museum. Mrs Anne Heseltine

Air Navigators

Mr James Best and Mr John

Lord Kinnaird

Business Sponsorship of the Arts. Northern Ireland, at the Waterfront Hall Belfast, and was received by the Rt Hon Michael Ancram MP (Minister of State for Northern Ireland) and Mr Colin Anderson (Vice-Lord-Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast).

March 14: The Duke of York. Patron, the Badminton Association of England, this evening attended the All England Badminton Championships at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 14: The Prince Edward, Chairman. The Duke of Edinhurgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening held a Reception at Buckingham Palace fol-lowed by a Concert given by Award participants at the Porchester Hall, Oueensway, London, BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 14: The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this morning visited John Scott Nichol Limited Old Station Close. Shepshead, Loughborough, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire Highness later visited Paul James Knitwear Limited, Hill Street. Barwell, Leicestershire.

The Princess Royal this afternoon visited Leicester General Hospital and opened the new Radiology Department. Her Roval Highness later opened a new Area Police Station in Keyham Lane, Hamilton, Leicestershire. YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE March 14: The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Year of Engineering Success, this murning attended the launch of Set Week, at Imperial College, Exhibition Road, London.

Fifth Sunday in Lent ST ALBAN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 Parish Euch, New English Hymnal, Canon Ritson; 11.15 M. Benedictus (Stanford in B flat), Rev M McLean: 12.30 HC: 6.30 E. Humfrey in E minor, Chaptain.

minor, Chaplain.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL ABERDEEN: 8
HC: 10.15 S Euch. Jackson in G. Of the glorious body (Plainsong). Provinst; 6.30 ES. Sumston in G. Lamentailons of Jeremiah Pari II (Tailis).

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, St Margaret's Service (Globs), Praise to thee Lord Jesus (Schutz), Dean; 3, 15 Festal E for Even St Patrick, Stanford In C. Ven G McCamley.

Patrick, Stantoro in C. ven G. McCamiey.

Bangor Cathedral: 10 HC; 11 Choral C.

Missa Collegium Regale (Howells), Litany
(Waitoni: 3.30 Choral E & Installation; Kelly in
C. Insanae et vanae curae (Haydin).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP. 9.15 HC;
11 Choral Euch & Erection of Cross. O quam
gloriosum (Victoria): 3.45 EP; 4 Music &
Readings for Passiontide.

BLACKERIEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 0.15

REAGINGS for Passiontide
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15
Choral M. Faithful Cross (King John of
Portugal), Canon Hindley: 10.30 Euch, Mass
for five voices (Byrd), O vos omnes (Gesualdo),
Canon Gailice: 4 Choral E.

Caron Galine; 4 Choral E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 11 M.
Benedicus (Stanford in 8 flat). God so loved
the world (Goss). Canon R Williams; 3:30 E.
Salvator mundi Salva nos (Brow).
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7:40 M: 8 HC; 10
Choral E uch, Messe Solennelle (Langlas). 0
for a cioser walk with God (Stanford). Canon J.
Simpson; 3:30 Choral E. Wesley in E. The
heavens are telling (Haydn). Rev S Wilkinson.
BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch: 9:45
Boreol Weddi; 11 Choral Litany & Euch,
treland in C. Lord let me know mine end
(Greene); 3:15 Choral E. Plainsong,
Lamentation (Bairstow); 5 Cymun Bendigaid.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:30 M.

canternation (sairstow): 5 Cymun Bendigaid. CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M. Rev R Marsh: 11 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor, O vos omnes (Casals), Rev V Stock: 5.15 E. S. John's Service (Hendrie): 6.30 Compline, Rev R Symon.

Compline. Rev & Symon.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Collegium Repale (Howells), Here O my Lord isee thee face to face (58/fi), Canon D Weston: 3 E, Short Service (Gibbons).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC. Rev I Moudy: 9.30 Euch. Canon D Knight: 11.15 S Euch. Missa Brevis (Gabrieli), Huly Euchansi (Harris), Acting Provist: 6 Choral E. Darke in A minor. Rev B Snaith.

CHECTEP CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L. 8 LC: 10.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY Mr David Alton, MP, 46; Mr Alexander Bernstein, former chairman, Granada Group, 61: Dr D.R.W. Bryer, director, Oxfam, 53: Miss Isobel Buchanan, soprano, 43; Mr P.J. Rutler, former senior partner, KPMG Peat Marwick, 68; Sir Jack Callard, former chairman, British Home Stores, 84; Lord Constantine of Stanmore, 87: Mr. Frank Dobson, MP, 57: Professor Sir James Dunbar-Nasmith, architect, 70; Mr John Duttine, actor, 49; the Right Rev John Gibbs, former Bishop of Cov-entry, 80; Professor John Gillingham neurologist, 81; Ms Sunetra Gupta, author. 32; Earl Haig, 79; Mrs Deirdre Hutton, chairman Scottish Consumer Council, 48; Sir Leonard Knowles, former Chief Justice of the Bahamas, 81; Sir John Lacy, former general director of party campaigning, Conservative Central Office, 69; Mr Mike Love, singer, 53; Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, 73; Professor Joan Mitchell, econo-

mist, 77: Mr Michael Moore,

former chairman, NSPCC, 61: Mr.

BIRTHS: Andrew Jackson, gen-

eral, 7th American President 1829-

37, Waxhaw, Carolina, 1767; William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Mel-

bourne, Prime Minister 1834 and 1835-41, London, 1779; Dame Madge Kendal, actress, Clee-

thorpes, 1849; Lady Augusta Greg-ory, dramatist, poet and director of

Abbey Theatre, Dublin, Roxbor-

DEATHS: Julius Caesar, assas-

sinated, Rome, 44BC; Tobias Rustat, Yeoman of the Robes to

Charles II. London. 1694; Otto von

Kotzebue, navigator, Reval, Rus-

sia, 1840: Luigi Cherubini. com-

poser, Paris, 1852; James Sylvester.

mathematician, London, 1897: Sir

Henry Bessemer, engineer, in-

ventor, steel manufacturer,

London, 1898; Walter Crane, il-

lustrator, Horsham, 1915; August

von Wasserman, bacteriologist.

Berlin, 1925; Nevil Sidgwick,

chemist. Oxford, 1952; Aristotle

Cottegium Regate (Howells).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch,
Purge me O Lord (Tallis), Mass for four voices
(Byrd), Canon D Ison: 11.15 M. Lamentation
(Bairstow), O Saviour of the world (Ouseley); 3
E, Noble in B minor. Salvator mundi (Blow)
6.30 Special Service, Stabar Mater (Schubert).

6.30 Special Service, Stabar Maier (Schubert).
GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon T
Chanler, 9.45 S Euch, Mass for Four Voices
(Byrd), Crucifizus (Lotti). Canon J Schofield:
11.15 M. Te Deum In E (Britien). God so d
the world (Stainer). Rev Sir J Alleyne.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch.
Collegium Regale (Howells): 11.30 M,
Lamentarion (Bairstow), Jubilate (Moeran in
E flat), Hear my prayer (Purcell): 3.30 E, New
College Service (Drayton).

Edices Fer Cathedral: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), O Saviour of the world (Goss): 4 Choral E. Walmisley in D

Buch. Messe Solennelle (Vierne), Lamenta-tion (Bairstow), Dean: 3.30 E & Staffordshire Civic Service, Blessed city heavenly Salem (Bairstow), Bishop of Lichfield, UNCOLN CATTARDE

Bairstow). Bishop of Lichifeld.
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany. 8 HC,
9.30 S Euch. Kyrle Sanctus & Benedictus
(Durufle). Agnus Dei (Missa in simpliciate).
Langlaisi. Subdean: 11.15 M. The
Lamentation. Crown of Roses (Tchaikovsky).
Precenior. 12.30 HC; 3.45 E. Ye now are
sorrowful (Brahms): 5.15 Recital.
LIANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany; 8
Holy Euch. Dean; 9 Parish Euch, Dean; 11 S
Euch. Missa Brevis (Leightom). Salvator
Mundi (Tallis), Canon: 12.15 Holy Euch; 3.30
Choral E, Second Service (Leightom): 6.30
Parish E & Sermon. Rev Dr J Baldwin.
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M: 9 Euch:

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch. Hear my prayer (Purcell). Archdeacon of Manchester, 6.30 E. Lord let me know mine end (Greene). Canon A Radcillica.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8.9.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Mass in G minor (V Williams), God so loved the world (Stainer), Canon M Perham: 3.30 EP: 5.30 Arvo Paris of St John

ough, Co Galway, 1852.

Anniversaries



will be 62 tomorrow

Robert Nye, novelist and poet, 58; Mr Ben Okri, author, 38; Sir Philip Powell, CH, architect, 76:

Lord Rendlesham, 82: the Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, Bishop

Onassis, shipping magnate, Paris, 1975; Dame Rebecca West, writer, London, 1983. The Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first all-professional baseball team, 1869. A bomb planted by Fenians exploded in the offices of *The Times*.

American entrepreneur G.S. Selfridge opened London's first department store on a six-acre site in Oxford Street, 1909. Nicholas 11 (the last Russian Emperor), abdicated, 1917.

Queen Victoria Street, London,

BIRTHS: Pieter Hooft, poet. Amsterdam, 1581; Caroline Herschel. astronomer, Hanover, Germany, 1750; James Madison, 4th American President 1809-17, Port Conway, 1751; Matthew Flinders. navigator, Donington, Lincolnshire, 1774; George Ohm. physicist, Erlanger, Germany, 1787; Rosa Bonheur, animal painter, Bordeaux, 1822; Camilo Branco, novelist, Lisbon, 1825.

of Winchester, 54: Mr Gavin Stamp, architectural historian and writer, 49; Sir Roger Tomkys. Master, Pembroke College, Cambridge, 60; Mr David Wall, former Director, Royal Academy of Dancing, 51.

TOMORROW

Mr Matthew Bannister, Director, BBC Radio 1, 40; Miss Teresa Berganza, mezzo-soprano, 62: Mr Bernardo Bertolucci, film director, 56: the Right Rev Hugo de Waal, Bishop of Thetford, 62: Sir Philip Foreman, mechanical en-gineer, 74; Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Nortis, 30; Sir Ewart Jones, FRS, chemist, 86: Sir Anthony Kenny, former President, British Academy, 66; Mr Leo McKern, actor, 77; Miss Georgina Nayler, director, Pilgrim Trust, 38: Miss Kate Velligan, actress. 46: Mr Roger Norrington, conductor, 63; Mr R.G. Puttick, former chairman, Taylor Woodrow, 81; Miss Bridget Rowe, managing director of Sunday Mirror and The People. 47: Mr John Watts, racehorse

DEATHS: Alexander III. King of Scotland 1249-86, Burntisland, Pyfe. 1286: Giovanni Pergolesi composer. Pozzuoli, Italy, 1736; lean Rantiste Rousseau. Brussels, 1741; Robert Surfees novelist, Brighton, 1864: Aubrey Beardsley. illustrator, Menton, 1898; John James Macleod, physiologist, pioneer of insulin. Nobel laureate 1923, Aberdeen, 1035: Sir Austen, Chamberlain 1935: Sir Austen Chamberlain, Foreign Secretary 1924-29. Nobel Peace laureate, 1925, London, 1937; Constantin Brancusi, sculptor. Paris, 1957; William Henry Beveridge Baron Beveridge pioneer of social security, Oxford, 1963.

The American Military Academy was established at West Point. 1817

First liquid-propelled rocket was launched by the American physicist Dr Robert Goddard, 1926. Adolf Hitler renounced the Treaty of Versailles and introduced conscription, 1935.

The Queen opened the London Bridge, 1973.

Church services tomorrow

Watson: 10 Euch. Litany (Tallis), Collegium Regale (Howells), Tantum ergo sacramentum (Durufie): 11.30 M. Benedicite in B flat (Sumvion), Call to remembrance (Farrant), Canon J Davies: 3 E. Dyson in D.

Canon J Davies; 3 E. Dyson in D. SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 Judges Service, Rt Rev I Hariand. Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley): 4.30 Hands on confirmation group: 6.30 S Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Vinoria). Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow). Canon I Page. SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, Rev R Royle: 11 Choral Euch, Darke in F, In leiunto et fletu (Tallis). Crucifixus (Lord). Rev R White: 3 Choral E. Harwood in A flat, O Lorde the maker of alle thing (Joubert). Provost.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 Litany: 8 HC: 9.30 Parish Communion, Sumsion in B flat. Harwood in A flat. Greater love (fleand). Chancellor: 3.15 Music & Readings for Passiontide: 4.30 E; 5.45 Compline.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestring), Chancellor; 3 EP; 6 Crucifizion.

CHICHIXION.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon G
Naim-Briggs: 9.15 Parish Communion, it is a
hing mosi wonderful (Ireland). Canon G
Capper: II Solemn Euch. Missa Brevis
Walton). Lamentation (Balrstow). Provost: 4
E, Harwood in A fial, Canon D Baxter.

E, Harwood in A Dal. Canon D Baxter.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch.

Missa quam gloriosum (Victoria). Rev G
Parran: 11.30 M. Benedicite (Sumston in B
flat). Benedicius (Stanford in A). Call to
remembrance (Farrant): 3 E. Jackson in G.
Falre is the heaven [Harris), Rev P de Lucas.

WESTMINSTER ABEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Lamentation (Bairstow). O saviour of the world Ouseley, Canon A Harvey: 11.15 Euch, Missa irinitatis sanctae (Grieri, O sacrum convivium (Vann). Canon A Harvey; 3 E. Purcell in Gminor. Crucifixus a 6 (Lond), Rev B Duckworth; 5.45 Recitai: 6.30 Evening, Rev J Goodail.

Goodali.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Solemn
Mass, Mass for five voices (Berkeley), Remem-ber not Lord our offenoes (Purcell), Bishop C
O'Relily: 2.45 Rectial: 3.30 Solemn V & B.

oer not Lord our ottenees (Purcell), Bishop C O'Reilly: 2.45 Rectial: 3.30 Solemn V & B.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 M.
Benedictus (Fauxbourdons) (Taills). Salvator mundi (Howells). The Archdeacon: 11.30 Euch. Messe solennelle (Vierne). Toccata in B flat minor (Vierne): 3.30 E. Watson in E. Thou will keep him (Wesley). Rev A Edmeads: 5.30 E. Quarti toni (Palestina).

YORK MINSTER: 8.8.45 HC: 10 S Euch. Missa Bel' Amfluri' altera (Lassus). Rev Dr J Toy. 11.30 M. The Lamentation (Bairstow). Benedictus in B flat (Stanford): 4 E. Sumsion in G. Crux fidelis (John IV of Portugal): 7.30 Passionitale Concert. Requieum (Duruffe). ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL Clwyd: 8 HC: 11 Choral Euch, Darke in A minor. Noto morrem pecatoris (Moriey). Canon J Thelwell: 3.30 Choral E

Luncheons, dinners

Service luncheons

RN Staff College Greenwich A dinner was held last night at the Royal Naval College Greenwich to mark the cessation of Royal Naval Staff Training at Greenwich. Commodore A.L. Chilton, presided, Past commandants, directors, directing and support staff and civilian tutors of the college were present.

The Green Howards

Brigadier Richard Dannatt, Colonel of The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) presided at a luncheon for officers and their guests held yesterday at the Queen's Club.

Luncheons

Baroness Flather Baroness Flather was the host at a luncheon given by the Executive Committee of the United Kingdom branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at the House of Lords yesterday to bid farewell to the Speakers, Deputy Speakers and Members of Commonwealth Parliaments attending the 1997 Parliamentary seminar at Westminster.

Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC. chairman of the executive committee. presided

Mid Atlantic Club M Pierre Lellouche, Special Adviser to the President of France, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Mid Atlantic Club held yesterday at

Dartmouth House. Lord Ezra was in the chair. Service dinners

Oxford University OTC General Sir Michael Rose, Ad-Colonel Oxford University OTC. was the principal guest and speaker at the annual dinner held last night at Keble College, Oxford. Lieutenant-Colonel W.A.H. Townend, Commanding Officer,

The Vice-Chancelior of Reading University and the Principal of the Royal Agricultural College.

prayer ministry; 5 stations of the Cross.
ST GILES CATHEDRAL Edinburgh: 8
Morning HC. Minister: 10 Morning HC.
Minister. Collegium Regale (Howells): 11.30
Lamentations (Bairstow): 6 Lenten Address &
Music 8 Evening, Rev J Williams.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL'S Euch: 10.30 Euch. Missz Orbis factor. Crown of Thorns (Tchalkovsky): 3.30 Choral E. Second Service (Leighton): 6.30 Compline.

(Legnon): So Computine.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL. Old Aberdeen:
11 Morning, 6 Evening, both Rev R Frazer.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC: 8.45
M, 11 S Euch, Missa Bell Amfurit: altera
flassus), O Saviour of the world (Ouselev, Rev
1 Lees: 3.15 E, Second Service (Leighton).
Christus factus est (Bruckner). Canon S Oliver:
C Peeritu

5 Recital.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL Emismore Gardens. London. SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy. Rievan and traditional polyphony. Diocesan Bishop Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS. Margaret Street. W1: 8.5.15 LM: 10.20 MP: 11 HM. Messa 11 a 4 (Monteyerdi). Rev J Davies; 6 E 8 R. Short Service (Caustum). Baroness James of Holland.

ALL SOULS. Langham Place. W1: 9 Communion Service. Rec Dr J Stott: 6.30 Preb R Bewes.

THE ASSUMPTION. Warwick Street. WI: 11 Mbsa iste confessor (Palestrina). Vivo ergo dicti Dominus (Loo). Arimam meam dilectam (Vitoria).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children: 11 M. Greater love hath no man (Ireland), Rev Dr P Elvy: 12.15 HC; 6 E. Rev D

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Carzon SL WI: 11 Sunday School

WI: 11 Sunday School.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,
Covent Garden: 11.15 Rev J McMahon: 6.30

FARM STREET, WI: 8. 9.30. 12.30. 4.15. 6.15 LM: 11 HM.

LM: 11 HM,
HOLV TRINITY BROMPTON: 9 ASB HC. Rev S
Downham: 11 Morning. Mr J Jennings:
5.7.30 Informal. Rev S Millar.
THE ORATORY. Brompton Road: 7. 8. 9. 10,
11 Mass. Mass. for four voices (Byrd). O bone
Jesu (Parsons) 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass: 3.30 V & B.
Miserrer nostri (Taills).
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH. Iverna
Gdns: 11 Holy Mass. Archbishop Y Giziman.
WESLEYS CHAPEL City Road. ECZ: 9.45 HC:
11 Morning. Mr N Muchopa.

11 Morning, Mr N Muchopa, WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodisti. SWI: 11 HC. Rev E Fleicher: 6.30 Rev E Stafford.

SWI: 11 HC. Rev E Fletcher: 6.30 Rev E Stafford.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham SI, EC2: 11 Choral Euch. Peter Kroguli: 7 Bach Vespers, Himmetskonig set willkommen (Bach), Rev P Schmiege.

ST AUGUSTINE, 117 Queen's Gaic, SW7: 8.30 HC; 11 HC Sung, Messe Douce Memoire (Lassus), A Lirany (Walton).

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT. Smithfield: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa brevis (Britten), Ave verum corpus (Faure). Rector: 6.30 E, Fauxbourdons (Byrd), Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Lanentaston (Bairsiow). Noble in B minor. Salvator mundl (Tallis), Crucilixus (Lotil), Canon J Oanes: 6.30 Choral E.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Mosquith Albrew Association, Benedictus (Stanford in B flatt, Give us the wines of Jaint (Bullock), Right Rev Mansignor E Hill. 12.30 HC.

ST COLUMBAS. CHURCH. OF SCOTLAND.

Cirencester, were among the guesis.

TAVRA for North West of England and Isle of Man Colonel John Timmins presided at a dinner of TAVRA for North West of England and Isle of Man held last might at the Officers' Mess. Altear Training Camp. to mark the

Dining Out of Colonel Sir Simon Towneley, Captain F.K. Bennett. RNR, and Colonel B.A.G. King.

Dinners

Cordwainers' Company The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs attended the annual Past Wardens' dinner of the Cordwainers' Company held last night at Law Society's Hall. Mr Timothy Weber-Brown,

Master, presided, assisted by the Wardens. The Lord Mayor, the Master of the Leathersellers' Company, and Mr Clive Willcocks also sooke

Viscount Allenby

Viscount and Viscountess Allenby last night entertained members and guests of the International Cultural Exchange at dinner at the House of Lords.

The High Commissioner for India and Mrs Singhvi were the guests of honour. Mr Owen Luder, President of RIBA, was among others present

Merchant Taylors' School,

Mr Simon Dawkins, Headmaster of Merchant Taylors' School Crosby, and President of the Old Crosbeians, presided at the annual London dinner held last night at the East India, Devonshire, Sports and Public Schools Club, Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison Cail and the Clerk of the Merchant Taylors'

Master John Leslie was the guest of honour at a dinner held on March 7 at The Travellers Club, Pall Mall, given by the members of Lamb Chambers to mark his appointment as Queen's Bench Master, Mr Jonathan Cole presided and Mr Jeremy Carey pro-

Company also spoke

Lamb Chambers

posed the toast.

armillan: 6.30 Rev W Calrns. ST ETHELDREDA'S. Ely Place 11 S Mass. Messe en Soi (Dubois), Vexilla Regis (Liszi), Tenebrae Factae Sunt (Victoria). ST GEORGES, Hanover Square, WI: 8.30 HC:

11 S EUCH, SUMSION IN F. RECOT.
ST JAMESS, Garlickhythe, ECCI: [0.30 S EUCH, [1662], John Paul, Rector.
ST JAMESS, Susser Gardens: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Gabriell), Kommsusses Kreuz (Bach), Rev B Wilson; 6 Choral E, Short Service (Byrd). ST JAMES'S. Piccadilly: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch. Rev H Valentine: 5.45 EP. er in valentine, 5.45 e.r.

I JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family
ommunion, Fantasia in G (Bach), Rev D
ichards, 6.30 EP & Praise, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3. 10.30 S Euch, Drop drop slow tears (Walton), Rev N Roberts; 12.15 HC: 6.30 E. Mr J Harding. 9.45 Family Communion: 11 S Euch. Missa L'Hora Passa (Vladana). Lamentations (Bairstow). Rev D Bean. ST MARGARET'S, Westminster: 11 S Euch. Missa acterna Christi munera (Palestrina). Miserere mei (Allegri). Rev B Fenton.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FTELDS, WC2: 8 HC (1662): 9.45 Euch, Rev C Herbert: 11.30 Visitors, Rev A Hurst; 12.30 Hc; 2.45 Chinese, Rev J Bennett: 5 Choral E: 6.30 Evening. ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Ressington W8: 8.12.30 HC: 9.30 Parish Euch, Very Rev Di J Moses, Dean of St Pau's Cathedral: 11.15 Choral M, Vicar: 6.30 E. Rev M Fuller. TMARYS, Bourne Street, SW (: 9,10,7 LM; 11 (M, Missa brevis (Leighton), Fr B Scott; 6 olemn E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Mass (Plainsong), Rey D Jones: 6 Taize: 7 Concert, Requiem (Faure) ST MARYLEBONE. Marylebone Road, WI: 8
HC: 11 Choral Euch. Missa Culusvis Toni
(Ockeghem), O Crux Ave (Philips), Rector.
ST MICHAELS. Cornhill. ECS: Darke in A
minor, O nata lux (Tallis), Fr G Morgan.

ST MICHAELS. COMMILL EUS: Darke In A minor. O nata lux (Tablis), Fr G Morgan.
ST PAULS. Wilton Place. SWI: 8.9 HC: 11 Solemn Euch. Short Service (Tallis). O vos omnes (Casals), When David heard (Weelkes). Rev C Cournauld.
ST PETERS. Eaton Square. SWI: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch: 11 S Euch, Missa in Illo Monteverdib. Fr A Childwick.
ST STEPHENS. Gloucester Road. SWT: 9 LM: 11 HM. Le bien que J'ai (Goudinel). Custodi me domine (Lassus). Peccantem mme quotidie (Morales).
ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL: X.30 HC: 10.45 M & Sermon. Short Service (Gibbons), Rev A Gyle: 11.45 S Euch. Ave Jesu Christe (Philips); 5.15 Choral E. Magnificai (Buxiehude).
CHAPEL ROYAL D'ST PETER AD VINCUIA, Tower of London: 9.15 HC. Rev P Abram: 11 M & Sermon. Short Service (Weelkes). Rev P Abram.

Minglos.

CHAPEL ROYAL. Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC (1662): 11 M. Dyson in F. Fauxboudons (William). Jehovah quam multi sunt hostes (Purcell): 3.30 E. First Service (Weelkes).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL. South Audiey Street. W1: 8.15 HC: 11 S Euch, Missa Trahe me post te (Victoria). Rev 5 Hobbs.

QUEENS CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY. WC2: 11 S Euch, Stanford in G. Rev 8 Affleck.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH. Fleet Street: 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP. Lamentations of Jeremiah (Bairstow). Benedictus (treland in C., Master. GUARDS CHAPEL. Wellington Barracks: 11 M. O von omnes (Correal). Band of Scots Guards, Rev T Cole; 12 HC.

Mr R.E. Page and Miss E.V. Jeffrey

and Mrs Brian Page, of Stafford, and Emma Victoria, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Jeffrey, of Var, France. Mr B.A. Runciman

and Miss C.J.C. Stapleton The engagement is announced between Ben, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Owen Runciman, of Ely.

Mr P.T. Stewart-Blacker

The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Stewart-Blacker, of Rosemount House, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, and Mary, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Neil Macpherson, of Craggie House,

Marriage

Canon Anthony Robinson, Team Rector, parish of the Resurrection, of Leicester Cathedral, has been Other appointments include: Canon Ian Bunting, diocesan director of ordinands (Southwell).

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BMDS: 0171 680 6880

PERSONAL COLUMN

pecitoris (Money). Canon J Theiwell; 3.30 Choral E ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 Cymun Bendigald. Yr 1s-Ganon: 9.30 Parish Euch, Dean: 11.15 Choral M. Lamentation (Balistown, Jubilate (Noble in B minor). Dean: 0 Choral E. Stanford in G. Minor Canon. ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL 8 HC. Canon S Petilii: 10 S Euch, Mathias in C. Short Service (Willis). Piorans ploravit (Ferrabosco). Ex ore Innocentium (Ireland). Canon C Catton: 11.30 Choral M. Lamentations (Balistow). Crueitixus (Lotti: 3.30 Choral C. ST GEORGES CATHEDRAL SORIHwark: S.10.6 UK; 11.30 Solerni M. Mass for four voices (Byrd). Fr P Turner. 4.30 Nigerian

PRIVAT	E: 0171 48	31 4000
The blessings	of your father than the bless-	DEAT

mountains and the bounty of the everlasting hills. Genof the everlas ests 49 : 26

BIRTHS CHURCHEL - On March 3rd 1997, to Charlotte (née Neame) and Richard, a son, Harry Alexander, a brother

GITTOS - On March 11th to Géraldine (née Ducoin) and Tim, a son Artur Timothy HATCH - On 9th March 1997 to Michelle and Andrew, a son Jacob Owen, a brother for Thomas.

HUBHNS PAHL - On February 25th to Tanya and Clemens, a daughter, Annabel. With thanks to St Mary's Hospital, LEDGARD - On February 26th, at home, to Sophie and Mark, a daughter, Katle, a sister for

PAGE - On 3rd February 1997, to Amanda (née Scaton) and Matthew, a benutiful daughter, Henrietta Jasmine Alberta.

SIMPSON - On 12th March 1997, to Cameron and Jane a son Andrew Alexande: James, a brother for Richard Mother and child both well

STIMTON - On 9th March at John Radellife, Oxford, to Clova (nëe Stuari-Hamilton) and Michael. a son Hector Goorge Dunald, a brother for Pandorn and Cecilio. STOLL - On March 13th, to Sara (née Pringle) and Jonny a son, Benjamin Bernard, a

VAM HORN - On March 3rd to Karl and Joanne (née Sundby), a son William, a brother for Marry and

and Professor Christopher White to be trustees of the museum for a HS ABBOTT - Vera Doris (Namy Latham). On 12th March 1997 aged 94 the beloved namy of John, Susan and Richard Latham. Their children, Jasper, Ella and Ross, David Benmud, Philip and Dinah, George, Harry, Louise and Emily and Susan's grandchildren Anyusha, Itshara, Ruby and Roma, For shryone years she was the support of all the family and finally the beloved companion of Lady Gwendoline Latham, Funetal at Holy Trinity Church, Sunningdale on Thursday 20th March at 10 o'clock followed by interment at St. Peter's Church, Linkenholt near Andover at 2.45pm. Enquiries to Linke Bannister, 69 High Street, Ascot, Berks.

AUSTIM - Alan Thomas died March 12th 1997 aged 78 years, adored husband of Queenie (née Hargreaves), precious Daddy of Patricia, Carolyn and Nicky and Dad to Tony. Much loved by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Service at Lodge Bill Cremntorium.

Lodge Bill Crematorium

Friday March 21st at 230pm Family flowers only. Donations if desired to British Heart Foundation or

Birmingham Childrens

BRODIE - On 13th March 1997.
Patrick Henry Bredie M.C. beloved husband of Barbana and deanly loved father of Robert, Jane and Andrew. Funeral at 11am on Thursday 20th March at Christ Church, Radlett followed by private cremation. Family flowers only to Nethercotts. 20 Aldenhum Road. Rudlett, Herts, by 9.30am.

Euchans (Harris). Acting Provest 6 Choral E. Darke in A minor. Rev 8 Snath.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L. 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch. Collectum Regale (Howells). Canon Conway: 1.30 Choral M. Benedicite (Harris in Al. Canon T Dennis: 3.30 Choral E. Stabat mater dolorus (Schubert): 6.30 ES. Canon T Dennis.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M. Benedictie (Harris in Al. Benedictus (Plainsong). Crux Ridelix (John IV of Portugal). Precentor: 11 S Euch. Little Organ Mass (Haydn). Salvator mundi (Tallus, Dean; 3.30 E. Let us lift up our heart (Wesley).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: 0.30 CH. Little Organ Mass (Haydn). Salvator mundi (Tallus, Dean; 3.30 E. Let us lift up our heart (Wesley).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: 0.30 off: 8 HC: 10 M & Sermon. Miserere (Palestrinal. Canon Webster: 11.15 S Euch. Missa Qual Dona (Lassus). Thou knowest Lord the secrets (Purcell). Canon O'Donovan: 0 E. Glouce-ter Service (Howells). O Lord God (Child).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP. Secrets (Howells). O Lord God (Child).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.45 S Euch. Missa Brevis (Palestrinal. Salvator Mundi (Tallis). Rev R Parsons: 6 Choral E, Whitlock in G. Mr A Flimbarn.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Precentor: 10 M. Lampistion (Rairstow). Praise to the God so loved the world (Stainer), Canon M Perham's 3.30 EP: 5.30 Arvo Parts of St John Passion.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 9.30 M. Benedictus (Stanford in Cl: 10.30 Euch. Missa Aelerma Christi Munera (Palestrina), Praise to thee Lord Jesus (Schutz). Treasurer: 3.30 E. Grav in F minor. Christus Inclus est (Bruckner).

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 Parlsh Communion. Mass of St Thomas (Thome), Canon J Hedges: 13 S Euch, Litany (Loosemore). Are vertim (Byrd), Canon J Hedges: 6.30 Thanksgiving Service for work of Corrymeula, Most Rev Dr S Brady.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, Dean: 9.30 Parlsh Euch, Missa Octavi Toni (Lassue), Rev P Corway: 11.30 M. Benedictie (Sumsion in B Bal), Benedictus (Stanford in C), God so loved the world (Stainer): 12.30 Euch, Canon H Garside: 5.30 E. Third Service (Tomkins).

Canon M Gianville-Smith.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 M. Lamentations (Bairstow). Hide not thou thy lace (Farrant). Dean: 3.15 E. God be in my head (Ruther). Jackson in G. The wilderness (Wesley): 8 King's School Choral Concert.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Very Rev D G. Mr A Flintham.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Precentor. 10
M. Lamentation (Bairstowi, Praise to thee
Lord Jesus (Schutz). Canon D Brown: 11:15

BIRRELL - Very suddenly in a London hospital on Sunday March 9th 1997, James (James) Birrell aged 26 years, troaucred son of Betry and David of Crook of Devon. Dearly loved brother of Allison and Earen, brother-in-law of Peter and Gregg and uncle of Jack and Evan. Funeral Service in Gleish Church, Einross on Monday March 17th at 200 p.m. and thereafter to Cleish Cemotery at which all friends are invited. "Jamie had a thousand friends - you only had to know him for ten minutes to be one".

CLOPET - Priscilla (mée Bradley-Williams) widow of Carl died on Monday March 10th at her home after 10th at her home after many years of remarkable fortitude. Cremation has taken place, but if desired please send my domations to The Macmillan Unit King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, West Sussax GU29 OBL.

DODD - On March 10th 1997 at Formia, Italy, Cecil James Dodd known as Richard / Dicky aged 73 years, Will be sadly missed by his wife Donata, sons Mark and r, his sister Irene

GOODALE - George Gerald, on March 14th, 1997, peacefully at home. Much loved husband, father and grandfather, Foneral Service at St. Mary's Church, Battle on Thursday, March 20th at 3pm. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Michael's Hospice, c/o Jempson & So., 38 High Street, Battle, TN33 OEE.

GRATWICK - John Gratwick O.R.E., died peacefully in his sleep at home on March 12th after a short illness bourne with dignity and courage. Saily missed by all his family. Funeral Service at St. Mary Thorpe Church, Thorpe, Surrey, Saturday 22nd March 11.30. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The St. Mary Thorpe Tower and Organ Appeal c/o Father Michael Rothwell, The Yicarge, Thorpe, Surrey TW20 STQ.

MALL - Harriett Emily Norsh' (née Chambers) passed away peacefully at Batchfoot Nursing Home, Upwey, Dorset, on March 12th 1997 aged 95 years. Formerly of Beech Close, Broadmayne. Seloved widow of Captain LW. Hall, Funetal Service at St Laurence Church, Upwey, on Thursday March 20th at 2pm, followed by uremation at Weymouth. Flowers and anquiries to Stockting Funeral Service, 22 Crescent Street, Weymouth, (01305) 785915.

RVING - On March 1 ith 1997
Margaret (Maggie) in her
98th year. First woman brataster in Britain and a
founder member of Greater
London Soroptimist Clab. A
much loved aunt and greataunt, she will be sadly
missed by family and
friends. Femeni Service at
Worthing Crematerium on
Friday March 21st at 12
noon. Family flowers only,
but donations if desired to
United Society for
Propagation of the Gospel,
for Work in Africa clo H.D.
Tribe, 130 Broadwater Road,
Worthing, West Sussex.

JOHES-PARRY - Mary on 10th
March aged 86 years,
peacefully at Oxford.
Beloved widow of Str Emest,
much loved and missed by
Tristram, Rupert and his
wife Diane, and
grandaughter Emma, Funeral
20th March at Woodvale
Crematorium, Lewes Road,
Brighton at 12 noon. No
flowers please. Donations if
destrod to the John Eadeliffe
Hospital c/o Hanningtons
Funeral Directors, 4/6
Monteflore Road, Hove BN3
1RD.

Patrick Philip. Peacefully on March 11th 1997 Patrick aged 71 years, architect. Funeral Service at Shrews-bury Crematorium on Monday March 24th at 4pm. Sprays or cut flowers only, please, Enquiries tel: 01743 344646.

PEPPE - Alison (née Johnson) suddenly and peacefully ut home on 12th March, Wislow of Tosco and much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral at St. George's Clun on Saturday March 22nd at 12.30. Flowers from close family only picase. Donations if wished to St. George's Church or the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 25 Effie Road, London SW6 1EE. CMG MBE. Died on March 12th at St. Peter's Hospital, Chortsey. Lored by Kay and all his family. Funeral at St. John's Crematorium, Woking.

John's Crematorium, Woking, No Howers, but donations if wished to "Airbridge Association". Tel: 01507 345024. All enquiries to Woking Fumeral Service. Tel: 01483 772266. ANNOUNCEMENTS

ZABLOCK! - Tadeusz.
Peacefully in his sleep on
13th March, at home.
Beloved husband of Anna,
father of Caroline and Ewa.
Family funeral on Theusday,
20th March at 11:30sm St.
john the Evangelist, St.
john's Avenue. Putney,
followed by burial at Putney
Valo Cemetery. Requiem
Mass for all family and
triends to be held on Friday,
21st March at Little
Brompton Oratory at 11am. ZABLOCKI t March at Little apton Oratory at 11am. MEMORIAL SERVICES

Church, Chelsea on Thursday 20th March at

IN MEMORIAM --PRIVATE CRACKMELL - In over loving memory of Freda, dearly beloved first wife of Desmond and mother of Valency Visionas Program

VINCENT - To the memory of Ruth Vincent (née Ainslie) born 16th March 1897. Artist, photographer, needlewoman, gardener, super cook, devout Christian, adored wife and

LET the experts help you to know your Ancestors. Write Achievements founded 1961, Northeate, Canterbury, CTI WANTED ADIES High quality designs clothes. Collection, care 2 dis cretics. Saville Row. Call 017: 734 6342/482 0687 Bettins

SERVICES

LECA camera, leases and ROLEX & CARTER wanted High cosh prices pold 0171 495 8992 or visit 31 Park Lane W1. NOOKER/ Dining table, 8ft z 4ft Any condition, with access ries. Tel: 01270 753350. TICKETS FOR SALE

LL AVAIL: Phanton, all theatre RAdams, P.Collins, C. Dion Rugby all sport 0171 480 6183 FOR SALE

YORK, PENNANT, siste, lise stone à terracotte flagstones à floor tiles. Cobble setts, stone houghs, masoary service. Net à internet dei. Helley Hextall 01380 850039 (Wiks)

COLLÈCTABLES

EXHIBITIONS THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN ART-ISTS, 136th Angual Exhibition, 7th 18th March at The Westminister Gollery, Westminister Central Hall, Open 10.00em-7.00em SWI, (custuding Sunday) 7th (171 222 2723 during Gallery hours. Admission free.

A SECTIONATE Newspaper 1847-1996 in presentation folder £18.00 inc plp. Newsreel year videos svali, Telffax 01934-412844 9pm 7 days. RIOWERS BY POST your mound, 12 Carnations £10.00, 18 £13.00, 12 Carnations & 25 Freeding £18.00, 28 Pressions £10.50, 24 Carnations & 25 Frosting £18.00, 28 Pressions £10.50, 24 Carnations & 25 Frosting £24.50, 20 Carnations number, 32 Saviour's, Gastra-soy, El. 10 £1461 63052 CC's, Fax 01481 66013

FLATSHARE

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PROF male to share (frum 2 bed 2 buth apx in Chelson with female, Would null interna-tional traveller or country sent togalitag weetly accom. E230 pw all inci are phone. Fel 0171 226 1942 or 0171 569 2708

TRUSTEE ACTS TRUSTEE ACTS COTICE is hereby given pursuant to 127 of the TRUSTEE Act 1925 that any porson having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the demanded berson's whom in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person; whose deceased person; whose some control of the co in the manner of the consideration of the consideration and set out belt hereby required to send I stars in writing of his distance to the person to the person to the person of the consideration of

ANNOUNCEMENTS

19th May 1977.

COURT & SOCIAL FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES Picase cend Court Page announcements by post/fax to:

Mrs J. Neeman, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 928. Tel: 0171 782 7347. Fax 0171 782 7725 Please include in all correspondence:
a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent,
a daytime and home telephone number and address. Advertisements for the Court Page must be received two orking days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confurnation.

Forthcoming (1) marriages

between Steven, eldest son of Mr

The engagement is announced between Damien, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Francis, of Ham Common, Surrey, and Jane, eldest daughter of Canon and Mrs. Nigel Abbott, of Much Hadhara The engagement is approunced

between Arthur, only son of Mr. and Mrs Michael Hindmarch. of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Victoria, younger-daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Noel, of Yeovil, The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr Jim McLaughlin and the late

Rosemary McLaughlin. of Merryanbone North, Nyngan, NSW, and Abigail, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Osborne, of Ellendon, Bungendore, NSW. Mr C.P. O'Shaughnessy and Miss C.A. Jackson The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mrs Michael Power, of Cadley, Wilk-shire, and Mr David

of Shiplake. O'Shaughnessy. Oxfordshire, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Jackson, of South Hohnwood, Surrey. The engagement is announced between Robert, only son of Mr.

and Janey, younger daughter of the Dean of Carlisle and Mrs Herry Stapleton.

and Miss LM. Macpherson

Mr G.P. Wear

and Miss S.E. Young The marriage took place on Friday. March 14, at Ruthin Castle, North Wales, of Gareth Paul Wear, of Kearsley, Manchester, and Sara Elizabeth Young, of Tisbury. Wiltshire. The honey-moon will be spent in Canada.

Church news

Leicester, Rural Dean of Christianity North and an honorary canon appointed Archdeacon of Ponte-fract, in the dincese of Wakefield. He succeeds the Ven John Flack. to be also the Bishop of Southwell's research officer.

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ON KINGS dence of i.e. ties hased local mar

WETTON - Sheila. A Service to celebrate the life of Sheila Wetton will be held at Christ

Valerie, Vivienne, Roger and Victor, who passed away on March 16th 1980. Our brave, brave "wee one" now safe in the arms of God.

ANTIQUES &

WHEREEBOW 2 Prof F for 2 lovely borns in his basedon, or tube/ ER, £100 & £110 pw inc all bills & cleaner. 0181 946 6839.

Advertising Rate is £15.28 per line inc VAT. 2

RONALD FRASER

Ronald Fraser, actor, died after an internal baemorrhage on March 13 aged 66. He was born on April 11, 1930.

onald Fraser's face was his fortune. It was not a handsome face — "mad, mad" was how he once described it but it was mobile and wonderfully expressive, changing in an instant from soowling belligerence to smirking mirth, from baffled rage to dignified vulnerability. It helped to turn a shrewd and sensitive actor into one of Britain's most popular and respected comic entertainers

ELI

Happy to see himself as "a crumbling old thing resembling a porcupine". Fraser rarely minded being asked how "an ugly so-and-so" like him came to be an actor. Nor was he particularly offended if people thought "Cor, I could play that part myself if that ugly devil can do it". What he did mind was being told, as he had been as a student at RADA, that "you'll be all right as a character actor with your face. You'll make a fair sort of living." He didn't want that. He wanted, he said, to be a star.

He proved, however, in the course of his colourful career, that it was possible to be both a character actor and an unlikely sort of star. "Every part is a character part," he would insist, and he proved his point in everything he did, from walk-on cameos to title roles. Slightly bogus upper-class bluster was Fraser's forte, but there was humanity, honesty and intelligence behind the fruity accent and Blimpish tics.

Fraser's finest comic achievement his perfect vehicle - was the 1970s television series The Misfit, where he played the bewildered Basil "Badger" Allenby-Johnson, an upright colonial rubber planter cast adrift in a Britain he no longer understands, a gentlemanly Edwardian relic hopelessly at odds with the new strike-bound, permissive society.

Fraser saw Badger as a complex character, not some Alf Garnett with proper vowels. He was "campaigning against cheapness, nastiness and thoughtlessness"; he was "not a fuddy duddy" but "totally honest, a real person, a chap of spirit and integrity whose views are not based on prejudice about race or anything else." Viewers loved him, whatever they thought of his opinions. The series ran for only 13 episodes, but it caught perfectly the confusions and anxieties of a transitional era. Badger remains a memorable and finely nuanced creation.



But Fraser's range was wider than was often realised. Although he disliked - and claimed to be no good at what he called "silly comic accent character parts", he played a lot of them over the years. He played villains as well as charmers. He also, in films such as The Long and the Short and the Tall and The Flight of the Phoenix, showed that he could portray tough working class squaddies as vividly as he portrayed pompous representatives of the officer class.

He was an outstandingly funny Falstaff. Recently, he had delighted a new and improbably rowdy young audience with his shabby, offbeat charm, appearing regularly on Chris Evans's outrageous TFI Friday television show as the "Lord of Love",

Ronald Fraser was the son of a Scottish builder and decorator. It was only after three years' postwar service with the Seaforth Highlanders in North Africa that he discovered a talent for entertainment, when he stood in for a friend as a disc jockey on the local Forces' radio station. "After two or three records," he said, "I thought what a lovely way to earn money." He also found himself acting in Terence Rattigan's French without Tears, in Benghazi, an experience he described as "rather elating".

dressed in a smoking jacket and

reading love poems.

Leaving the Army, he auditioned for RADA in 1952 and won a scholarship. He was a talented but far from diligent student, and left after 18 months. By

then, however, he had come to the attention of his future agent Peter Crouch, whom he was later to describe as "the biggest influence in my life".

His first professional role was not a starring one, however. He was taken on as dresser to the formidable Sir Donald Wolfit, perhaps the last, largerthan-life representative of the dying breed of great actor-managers. A few small roles came with the job, and in 1953 Fraser understudied Noël Coward in The Apple Cart at the Haymarket. Years of solid theatre work followed, at the Old Vic and in repertory in Glasgow and the Midlands, doing everything from Shakespeare to the most undemanding comedy.

The 1960s and 1970s were a lively time for Fraser. Film and relevision work grew out of his stage success. It brought him into contact with the likes of Richard Burton, Robert Harris. Michael Caine, Sean Connery and Peter O'Toole, and in their high-profile, high-living company he pursued his twin enthusiasms: women ("girls," he said, "have always been my disaster area", though a screen love scene with Raquel Welch left him unmoved) and what he called "cocktails" (his favourite, "Fraser Water," comprised a touch of ice, a kiss of lime, a splash of tonic and most of a bottle of vodka). He was an unabashed romantic, an insecure but naturally convivial man.

For much of his career Fraser's private passions seemed to attract at east as much public interest as his acting - he was always ready to discuss his private life in interviews and his reputation for slightly frivolous celebrity may have diverted attention away from his considerable talent. For an actor of such obvious and distinctive ability, he was for long periods in his life quite shamefully underused.

The roles, in fact, remained fairly regular throughout most of Fraser's career - his television credits included Pennies from Heaven, Brideshead Revisited, Fortunes of War, Minder, Lovejoy and Taggart; among the films he appeared in were The Killing of Sister George, The Wild Geese, Absolute Beginners and Scandal - but few of them did him justice, though he did more than justice to them. An impressive exception came in 1990, when he gave a moving and funny performance as an elderly inhabitant of a nursing home, in a television play called Obituaries.

In 1956 Fraser married the actress Elizabeth Howe, whom he had met at RADA. The marriage ended in divorce in 1964. Fraser is survived by their two daughters.

EVELYN KARK

Evelyn Kark, head of the Lucie Clayton schools, died of Cushing's disease, on March 8 aged 68. She was born on December 5, 1928.

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UNDER the pseudonym of Lucie Clayton, Evelyn Kark was a leading figure in the emergence during the 1960s of the new aristocracy of models. It was her Lucie Clayton Model and Charm School in London which taught such beauties as Shirley Anne Field, Jackie Collins, Jean Shrimoton and Celia Hammond to walk ramrod straight down the carwalk - "chin parallel with the floor, directly above the shoulders directly above the hips which are over

the centre of the feet". In 1965 the college was split into three sections, for grooming, fashion design and secretarial skills. The last, the Lucie Clayton Secretarial College in South Kensington, was to be the most successful, earning a reputation as Britain's most celebrated purveyor of typing. shorthand and deportment to a select clientele.

The girls, most of whom come straight from school, were taught secretarial skills as well as a perplexing array of social accomplishments how to emerge elegantly from a low-slung sports car, how to hold a cigarette and a glass of champagne, how to sit down without looking at the chair and how to eat asparagus without dribbling butter down your chin. For middle-class parents, eager for their daugh-ters to look like Jean Shrimpton and possess every social asset to match, it was immensely popular.

Kark's own career was living proof of how far a good secretary can travel. Born Evelyn Florence Gordine in the far from fashionable north London suburb of Queensbury, her schooling was dis-rupted by the war which broke out when she was 12. She was later to describe her education as having been carried out "privately and inconspicuously".

She worked for a spell as an assistant to the editor of Couri-er Magazine before going on in 1950 to join Muriel Spark, not yet a published writer, as a secretary on the launching of Model, an innovative directory of British mannequins. The project was the brainchild of Leslie Kark, a novelist and editor, and Evelyn - like so many good secretaries before

LaVern Baker, rhythm

and blues singer, died in

New York on March II

aged 67. She was born in

Chicago on November II,

1929.

i LOVED LaVern Baker

fame in the 1930s and 1940s as

the guitar-playing blues sing-

er Memphis Minnie. Like so

many other black singers.

Williams first sang in a gospel group at her local Baptist

church. But it was not long

before she found fame in the

secular world as Little Miss

Sharecropper at the Show

Soon she had a recording

contract with National Rec-

ords and then with Okeh, who

Flame Bar in Detroit.



and since - was to go on to marry her boss six years later. The popular press at the time was eager for pictures of pretty girls and Model was an instant success. On the strength of it, Leslie Kark went on to acquire the Lucie Clayton Model and Charm School which had been founded in 1928 by Sylvia Golledge. Assuming the name of Lucie Clayton for the purposes of television appearances, Evelyn Kark became head of the school in 1952.

She herself was a finely chiselled, delicate beauty and, though too short for modelling, was possessed of a warmth of personality and sense of fun which ensured her popularity with her glamorous charges. By the time the Sixties came along she had turned the fortunes of the once ailing agency and established it as the smart place to be. In 1961 the Lucie Clayton School of Fashion Design and Dressmaking was founded.

The dashing success in the 1950s of Fiona Campbell Walter (Baroness von Thyssen) who came from a more elevated social sphere than most of her colleagues, and in the 1960s of Sandra Paul (now Mrs Michael Howard), had eased the way for modelling to be considered a more respectwhich had heralded Kark's daughter.

LAVERN BAKER

idea of a finishing school. In 1966 she launched the secretarial college, which became the biggest of Lucie Clayton's three branches.

Always innovative, Evelyn Kark instituted a number of other short courses, varying from a nursery training for nannies to evening classes in accent, teaching "BBC English". She also wrote two books, The World of Modelling (1968) and Modelling and Beauty Care (1985).

In latter years the college was adament that it was not anachronistic. It kept pace with the times, updating electronic technology as well as its social skills. Girls "finished" at Lucie Clayton, it was insisted, were as likely to display their new accomplishments in the boardroom as at the Queen Charlotte's Ball. Many parents still regard it as the smart place for their daughters to be seen and it maintains its links with high society, launching the deb season each year with the Berkeley Dress Show.

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Evelyn Kark retired in 1995 when the business was sold. She went to live in Burford where she took great pleasure in entertaining her friends. She was an excellent cook.

She is survived by her husband, whom she married able profession. It was this in 1956, and by a son and

EDWIN THOMPSON

brewer, died on February 18 aged 75. He was born on February 2, 1922.

TEDDY THOMPSON developed Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries from its roots as a Black Country institution supplying local pubs to its present position as the counny's largest independent brewery. During the two main phases of rationalisation among British brewers around the mid-1960s and, again, after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report of 1989 — Thompson held uut against two temptations: he resisted not only the blandishments of the huge conelomerate national brewing companies but also refused to be seduced by the fashion for diversification.

A quietly spoken man with strong convictions, he presented a forceful case for the independence of local brewery companies based on both service to local markets and their financial performance for shareholders. During his 48

years at Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries he was able to observe the four phases of postwar brewing: first, rapid cated at Wellington College underinvestment; secondly, the spreading of brewing companies' wings in the face of poor industrial relations in the 1970s; thirdly, the sharp decline in the amount of beer drunk, partly as a result of the fall in the numbers of those engaged in heavy industry during the 1980s, and the consequent closure of small breweries in many towns and cities; and, finally, the refocusing of the brewing industry on pub retailing and brand development in the 1990s.

Each phase brought new products - the introduction of keg beer and the reaction of hardened beer-drinkers which brought about the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra), the development of lager and the resulting opportunity to raise beer prices by offering a cool drink, and eventually the establishment of "fun pubs" with all that that implied in terms of public order.

Edwin John Thompson inherited the family business and, for a year before being called up, was a wartime undergraduate at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1941, he joined the RA's Light Regiment of Air Operations, fighting in North Africa and taking part in the landings both in Italy in 1943 and in Normandy in 1944. He stayed with the North-West Europe campaign through to the end of the war and was not finally demobilised until November 1946. Feeling at 24 that he was too old to resume his

joined the family firm, first becoming a director in 1947. From those early days of postwar austerity he proceeded to build up the company he became joint managing director in 1960 and chairman in 1971 - on the basis of doing business according to rules that concentrated on value for money, natural ingredients.

life as a student, he did not

return to Oxford but instead

high standards of pub operation and "fair measure". This from his father. He was edu- last, introduced in the 1970s. saw the removal of traditional handpulls. In their place came metered beer dispensed into outsize glasses. This ensured that each pint was a full pint. with the froth on the top. This unremarkable fair dealing attracted widespread criticism within the industry, where brim measure remains the norm, and the froth has to be paid for by the customer.

Keg beer was fashionable in the 1960s because it enabled brewers to use cheaner ingredients to achieve consistency. The alternative - good raw materials, investment in cooling systems in pubs and proper training of pub licensees - was an expensive and long-term option which Thompson always preferred. In the long run this choice of his kept down beer prices in the Midlands: they are now the lowest

in Britain. In the 1970s the John Ellerman Company decided to invest heavily in brewing. Approaches to Wolverhamprepulsed. Ellerman then went on to buy Tollemache and Cobbold of Ipswich and also W. Cameron of Hartlepool Cameron's was a mediumsized brewery with 750 pubs, much the same size as Wolverhampton & Dudley. It gave Thompson a wry sense of satisfaction when J. W. Cameron was acquired by his own company in 1992 for just £1 after it had passed through two subsequent ownerships after Ellerman

ton & Dudley were vigorously

Thompson was highly re-garded within the industry. because she stood smack dab He was chairman of the in the middle of the great tradition of Ma Rainey and Brewers' Society, the trade association of the brewing and Bessie Smith. There was no pub-owning industry, in 1977compromising LaVern." So 78. This was the year when the said Jerry Wexler, a partner in Labour Government, with the Atlantic record label, Roy Hattersley as Secretary of about one of his company's State for Prices and Consumer most valuable assets. The singer LaVern Baker, whose Protection, attempted to introcareer encompassed rhythm duce price controls in a period. of rapid inflation both for raw and blues, rock 'n' roll and soul music, brought to even material and labour costs. As leader of the negotiations with the most formulaic pop song a musical integrity that was the department, Thompson was successful in ameliorating never questioned the most damaging aspects of Born Dolores Williams, she the Government's proposals came from a musical backand thus in retaining opportuground. Her aunt was Minnie Douglas McCoy, who found

brewers. Born in Wolverhampton, Thompson was committed to the wellbeing of the Black Country. He held directorships with a number of local companies including, before privatisation, one of the few surviving private utilities, the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. He was also chairman of a number of charities and a founder of the Black Country Museum.

nities for investment by the

He leaves his widow, three daughters and one son.

THE FIRST SOLDIERS'

HOME

YOUNG OFFICER WHO

FOUGHT AGAINST THE EVILS

OF GARRISON LIFE

TROM A CORRESPONDENT The appalling state of the health of British throps in the garrison towns 100 years ago is

almost impossible to realise today. It was due

principally to the lack of intelligent interest in

the soldiers' welfare shown by the Higher

Command. For instance, in the Aldershot

Command in 1860, with an average daily

strength of 14.875, there were 14.949 ad-

missions to hospital, of which 4.953 were due

In the camp there were indeed 18 canteens

The most cheerful and comfortable of the

hurs", but men on pass did not want to stay in

comp to welcome them in the new village

near by there were 25 public houses, several

with large halls fined out in great splendour in

which varied entertainments were staged and

to "diseases of lust".



bandleader Todd Rhodes, who took her to King Records, and adopted the names LaVern Baker - in homage to the singer and dancer Josephine Baker, who, she claimed, was a relative.

But it was not until she joined the fledgeling Atlantic company that Baker's career took off. There, in 1954, she cut her first big hit Tweedle Dee. A catchy and rhythmic number, it broke free of the segregated rhythm and blues charts to make No 14 in the pop charts. However, a white singer, Georgia Gibbs, used the song, the same arrangement and even the same vocal style to do a note-for-note cover that climbed to No 2.

But Tweedle Dee marked a watershed. By the time Baker cut her next big hit, Jim Dandy, times had changed billed her as Bea Baker. By the early 1950s she had joined the and American radio stations

seemed less afraid to play the black originals of songs. Baker went on to have more than a dozen hits for Atlantic including the powerful ballad, I Cried A Tear, and the gospelstyled Saved from the songwriting team of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, which is one of the highspots of the current West End show celebrating their work, Smokey Joe's Cafe. She later left Atlantic and

moved to Brunswick Records where she cut some impressive and soulful duets with another veteran star, the singer Jackie Wilson. She moved to the Philippines in the 1970s where she managed a nightclub, but made occasional returns to America, including, in the 1980s, a surprise appearance at a birthday party for one of Nancy Reagan's friends, which saw her unlike-by pairing with Mick Jones, the lead guitarist of the rock group Foreigner. She also contributed to the soundtracks of the films Shag and Dick Tracy, and returned to the United States for good to make her Broadway debut in Black and Blue, a musical tribute to Bessie Smìth. Baker had diabetes. By 1994

she had had both legs amputated below the knee. She married several times, including once to the black comedian Slappy White, and had several natural and adopted children.

PERSONAL COLUMN

			TECAL NOTICES
	TRUSTEE ACTS	TRUSTEE ACTS	LEGAL NOTICES
	NOTICE is hereby given Rassument to AZ7 of the TRINSTEE Act. 1925 that any powers hereing a Califf against or an INTERNATION of the ESIATE of any whose means, addresses had describe deceased persons to below is become any property of the control of the deceased person concentral before the discussed person concentral before the distributed by the parameter of the deceased verifies the control of the control of the control of the control of the parameter of the personal regimentarion mining the personal regimentarion of the control of the co	SCITICE is hereaby given punctumns to e27 of the TRUSIEE Act. 1926 that any person having a CLADM against or an INTEREST in the ETATH of any of the deceased person's whose sames, andresses and december than a reset out before the same are set out before them are set out before the same and search the same and the sam	CAMING ACT 1966 TO WEGON IT MAY CONC. TARE NOTICE that on the March 1997 application made to the Gaming Lice Committee for the Ended inton for the grant of a lunder the Gaming Lice Industrial Committee for the Ended into for the grant of a lunder the Gaming Act 19 accordance with the following Committee of APPLICANT. FIRST SURE TRADING LIMITED NAME OF CLUB: RIVA BIN SOCIAL CLUB PERMINES BEING STRUCTED AT DIGIT. CAMERINGE PRIVILLY CAMERINGS. ENGINEE TO CAMERINGS. PRIVILLY COMMITTEE TO COMMITT
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No 010657 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF JUSTICE COMPANIES ACT 1995
NOTICE IS HEREBY CRYPEN that a Pecition was, on the 26 February 1997 presented to Her Majery's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above named Couptney from 66,119923 to E7712,500 and of the Share Francism Account of Company Arom Control of the Share Frankum Account of the above named Company from CS.587.895 to E1299968.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Peridion is disected to be beard before the Registerr of the Companies Court at the Engl Courts of Justice, Strand, London WCZA ZLL on 20 March 1997. Any enddior or shareholder of the Company desiring to pipose the mpking of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of Capital and of Share Fremium Account shall appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Fettion will be fernished to any such person requiring the Same by the PSY ISSCHALES, QUEENS GAR-INS, HULL LICTIONS FOR AND ON BALF OF FIRST LEISUES ADDING LIMITED 1997 Halliwell Landau, St James's Court, known Street, Manchester, M2 2pr Tek 0161 835 3003, Reference Number 87365.15.

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gaily dressed prostitutes encouraged. There The National Benevolent were also some 47 beer houses, most of which provided lodging for women 61 Baysmater Road London W2 3PG Tel: 0171-723 0021

ON THIS DAY

March 15, 1961

There was no happy ending to Pilkington Jackson's efforts to ameliorate Service life. Vested interests squashed his attempts at

Aldershot and Portsmouth. He resigned his commission and later went to America where he taught art; he died in 1907 aged 74. Artillery subaltern, Pilkington Jackson, aged

20, was stationed there who was so moved by "the horrible scenes of nightly carnival in the streets" that he determined to take action.

At his own expense he hired a large building in the centre of the town, another at the southern end and a canteen in the camp, and fitted them out attractively. He provided bars for non-intoxicating refreshments and rooms for billiards, bagatelle, reading, writing, lecturing, a library, a museum and a gymnasium. He made few regulations (one of At Gibraliar the previous year the conductors were proportionately as had; but an penny weekly subscription and called these places the "Soldiers' Home", as distinct from institute. He opened them in July 1859.

The account of the first year of the Homes by a naval captain and nine army officers felt free to speak well of the Establishment in the formation of which they had taken no part". The Governor wrote to Jackson, now Captain. that "an incalculable amount of good resulted from the Homes". He also reported to the Home Secretary that "owing to the decrease in the sale of spirits he did not know what could be done to make up the revenue".

Sydney Herbert, that great War Minister, summoned Captain Jackson and expressed to him his "profound admiration" for the work he had done saying that "it required as much courage to write the truth sometimes as to command an army. However, before the inquiry could be completed, Lord Herbert died, on August 2 1861.

On September 3 Jackson submitted his Aldershot Report. He wrote that the village "is inhabited principally by publicans, brothel keepers, prostitutes, thieves and receivers of stolen property", and that "no system could be better imagined or more successfully carried out, if the object were to sap gradually the health of the soldier, to induce early debility, and hasten a premature death."

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Parents told to peel 'pesticide' fruit

Parents were warned last night by the Government to peel fruit before feeding their children with it after dangerous levels of an organophospate pesticide linked to Gulf War Syndrome were found in imported and home-grown apples. The worst contaminated apples contained up to six times the amount of the pesticide that can be consumed at one sitting without any risk to health, the Ministry of Agriculture said......

'Be sure' is Major's slogan

■ John Major will launch the Conservative general election campaign today with an attempt to reclaim the centre ground from Tony Blair and a promise that the next Tory government will help the "have-nots become the haves".....

Billie-Jo arrest

The foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins was remanded in custody after appearing in court charged with her murder...

Albania crisis

American, Italian and German rescue helicopters came under fire in Albania and the US was considering despatching Marines for a beachhead rescue.. Pages 1, 18, 19

Train warning The operators of South West

Trains were told that they faced a El million fine.... Clerical advice

A clergyman advocated shoplift-

ing from supermarkets to retaliate for the damage they did to local communities.

Fire damages

Rescue services run the risk of massive damages claims after the Court of Appeal ruled that firefighters are not immune from being sued for negligence.. Page 5

Rape law change

Men accused of rape may lose the right to question their alleged victims in court

Judge was misled

A judge was misled into granting an order for a pregnant woman to be held in hospital against her Page 8

Top pop challenge

The world's longest-running television chart show, Top of the Pops. faces its gravest threat in 33 . Page 10

Afghanistan threat

Russia and three frontline Central Asian states are planning to raise two armed divisions for deployment on the borders of Afghanistan.

Russian warning

Aleksandr Lebed, Russia's presidential hopeful, said that growing discontent to plunge the country into anarchy ...

Goalkeeper loses to the computer

■ A Premiership goalkeeper has fingered the problem which caused him to let in three sloppy goals: computer games. David James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, has accepted the blame, saying: "I was getting carried away playing Tekkon II and Teamraider for hours on end"...

NATURE NOTES

OPINION

Perils of the saloon: The public mood has changed since Enoch Powell could engineer swings by dressing racism sentiments in a toga. The party of One Nation has better tunes to sing than terrace chants Page 25 To unite the Jews: If the Chief Rabbi cannot reconcile the traditions of Judaism then the outlook is bleak for Anglo-Jewry Page 25

OBITUARIES Ronald Fraser, actor; Evelyn Kark, of the Lucie Clayton .Page 27

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The older I get, the more I feel a connoisseur of oldness. Venice on Monday was al dente, the air crisp, the sun on San Mark's cool and penetrating Page 24 Richard Attenborough: If you [Sir Peter Hall] don't believe things can change for the better, don't bother to vote. But I simply cannot accept that you are right to opt

LEPTERS Graham Swift and William Faulkner; capture of Enigma Page 25 machine.

BUSINESS

Off the rails: More than £250 million has been wiped off the market value of Britain's leading rail operators as the mood turns against the new

Reprimend: BZW, one of the City's foremost institutions. has been formally criticised by the Panel on Takeovers over its actions in the £782 million hostile bid for North-...Page 29 em Electric.

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 26.6 to 4,424.3. The pound rose from 97 to 97.2, rising 39 cents to \$1.6012 and .39 pfennigs to DM2.7212 Page 32 | robots; Vauxhall's MPVs

SPORT

Rugby union: France, meeting Scotland in Paris, are bidding for their fifth grand slam: England go for the triple crown against Wales in ...Page 56 Cardiff_ Football: Bradford City are

adamant that Chris Waddle will stay with them this ..Page 56 Cricket: Australia dismissed

South Africa for 209 on the first day of the second Test in Port Elizabeth Page 55

... CAR 97

Computer-controlled parking

ARTS

Richard Morrison: "Let's celebrate the mavericks who remain untouched by Mr Sanity and his prim sidekick, Ms Commonsense. They remind us that art is meant to be

Waste not: At the Old Vic the Peter Hall Company has inaugurated its season stylishly with a staging of Granville Barker's political play, Waste ... Page 23

Ancient faces: Some of the world's oldest portraits have gone on show at the British Museum - Page 22

Centone: in search of an enigmatic star Page 10 Easty girls: German pop from the wall Page 18 Hogarth: Medical view.30

Father figure: A display ter's love Pages 1, 2



Property: Auctions: stoves: Nash terrace ... Pages 4.6 Country life: Rithbish and wild trout Pages il, 13

contact with C-3PO.Page 6 Win: in-line skates details.

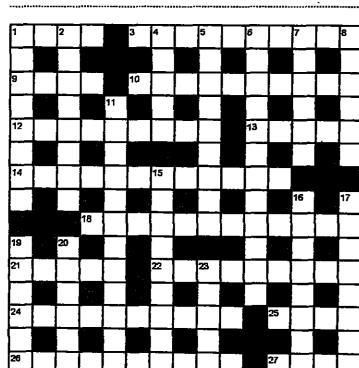


Food tads on the high High life diary......Page 3. TV & radio guide. The week ahead Pages 23-57

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,428

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street. London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .



DOWN

with (S).

4 Over earlier (5).

university (9).

new post (2-4).

host (6).

steak (1-4).

1 They stop short of protecting

2 Confirm it's a short girl I go out

5 Scot turned up before game in

6 Demands made by fellows creating difficult for nobles? (4,8).

7 There's a place in the office for

S Right to have whip-round for the

under state control (9).

relatively late in life (8).

19 Decide to withdraw pot? (3.3).

calves in these islands (8).

ACROSS

- I Fernales getting together drink, we hear (4).
- 3 For vital moment in court, produce counterargument? (5.5). 9 Bank of river. see (4).
- with routine business (4,6). 12 Subject to friction, shifts or slips, perhaps (9).

10 Create a character that can deal

- 13 Pan's empty, without fresh seafood (5).
- 14 Young criminal dealt with drug for crook (6.6).
- 18 Sounds like fool's a relative success in theatre (8.4). 21 Experience? Precisely (5).
- 22 Successfully cajole to buy a lot of drinks (3.6).
- 24 Theatrical performance without dialogue (3-3,4),
- 25 Intelligence within government department limited (4).
- 26 One of the pugnacious pair the French dropped into rivers (10). 27 Criticism a specially designed

jacket can take, hopefully (4). Solution to Puzzle No 20,422

Solution to Puzzle No 20,427

AA INFORMATION Latest Road and Weather conditions UK Weather- All regions 0336 444 910 UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410 Inside M25 M25 and Link Roads National Motorways 0336 401 746 0336 401 747 0336 401 748 0336 401 910 0336 401 388

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416 398

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets: 605 pm Moon sets Moon rises 12.51 pm 10.05 am First quarter tomorrow

London 6 05 pm to 6 13 am Bristol 6 15 pm to 6 22 am Edinburgh 6 16 pm to 6 26 am Manchester 6 13 pm to 6 21 am TOMORROW Sun rises: 6 13 am

Sun sets Moon sets Moon rises 1.47 am 10.52 am London 6 07 pm to 6 10 am Bristol 6 17 pm to 6 20 am Edinburgh 6 18 pm to 6 23 am

Manchester 6 15 pm to 6 19 am Penzance 6 29 pm to 6 32 am

11 Game location selectors of bellig-erent Americans announced (12). HIGH TIDES 15 Fearful about one substance kept PM 18.26 18.18 23.37 16.03 23.29 22.20 15.33 16.34 H637911797525587659222777065149877 16 Plan mutual selection, taken up Bolfasi Cardifi Devonport Dover Dubbn (N Wall) 17 Work giving details of bay and chestnut trees, for example (4-4). 21 51 16 56 16 50 22 20 22 20 23 20 24 20 25 25 27 25 27 25 27 20 28 20 26 20 20 Prince who's English needing top-class hereditary endowment Hannch Holyhead Huli (Albert Dj 23 Serious complaint over a type of

HIGHEST & LOWEST



FORECAST

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

☐ General: Western parts of England and Wales will be rather over-cast, with some drizzle and hill fog, while the east will be relatively bright, with a few places seeing some sunshine at times. Winds will be moderate erly, keeping it mild, even warm where the sun comes out in the east.

Most of Scotland and Northern Ireland mild and quite cloudy. While early rain or drizzle dies out over eastern Scotland, it will become more persistent elsewhere during the afternoon. The far north will be rather cold with some wintry showers.

☐ London, SE, Cent S England, E Anglla, Midlands: Mainly dry and bright with sunny intervals. Wind west or northwest light. Max 14C (57F). ☐ E, NW, Central N, NE England, Lakes, IoM, Borders, Edinburgh &

Dundee: Mostly cloudy, with some

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3 37

ABROAD

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LOW

Changes to the chart above from noon! low L will run quickly southeast with little change High A will remain stationary with little change. Low J will drift slowly north while filling

31 006

1024

(992) LLOW

rain or drizzle, especially later. Wind mainly west, locally north, light. Max 11C to 13C (52F to 55F).

Channel Isles, SW England, Wales: Overcast, drizzly on coasts. with some fog. Brighter inland. Wind mainly west light Max 12C (54F). Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney: Rain or sleet turning more showery later. Wind northeast or east light or moderate. Max 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Mostly cloudy. Rain or drizzle at times, heavier later. Wind rather variable but light, Max 9C to 11C (48F to 52F). Shetland: Clear or sunny spells. moderate or fresh. Max 4C (39F).

Outlook: Rain confined to north

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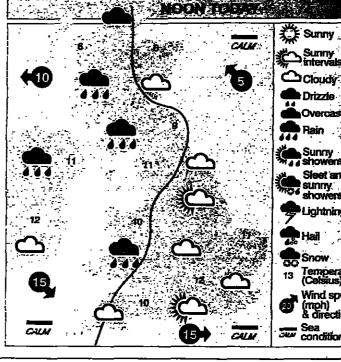
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- Warm front ▲ Cold front

Occluded to



Cloudy ⁻ Drizzie Overcast Rain Sunny showers Sleet and sunny showers Lightning 🖳 Snow: 13 Temperatur (Celsius) Wind speed Sea conditions



TORONTO OR NEW YORK

BA 747 to Toronto on 22 May, 10 July, 6 August, 29 August, and 6 September • five nights at Sheraton • Niagara with helicopter • harbour cruise • city tour theatre ■ Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,999

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overnight

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Oriana cruise to Norwegian Fjords • jet return £999 Fly to Norway on 11 June ● eight night Oriana Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to Bergen via the Fjords and Spitsbergen ● Concorde supersonic return £1,999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 18 June • five night QE2 cruise to Barcelona via Lisbon and Tangier • city

tour • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow from £1,599 Concorde to Bergen on 25 July • two night QE2 cruise

to Southampton • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,299 Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 August ● six night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Praia da Rocha and Casablanca • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,799

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Liffe traded options

INSIDE **SECTION**

YMARCHBE

Monday Tuesday ∪ Wednesday Thursday Friday

WORKING WEEK

On the milk run to a 'hip' new holiday island PAGE 31



BUSINESS

Graham Searjeant on schemes to give you back money **PAGE 33**

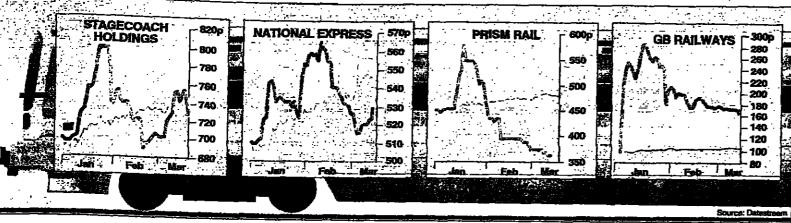


SPORT

Healey seeks to make place his own **PAGES 50-56** THE HIDDEN **ASSETS OF** BEECHAM

PAGE 31

SATURDAY MARCH 15 1997



City wipes £250m off rail operators' shares

By Fraser Nelson

MORE than £250 million has been wiped off the stock market value of Britain's leading rail operators as the mood in the City turned against the new owners of the country's railways.

Stagecoach, Prism Rail, GB Railways and National Express - who between them control 13 of the country's 25 privatised rail networks have lost an average of 23 per cent of their market since the end of January. Three of the four suffered further losses in value yesterday, led by a 3 per cent drop in the value of

The company, led by Brian Souter, chief executive, and Anne Gloag, his sister, has been told that it is in danger of losing the South West Trains franchise if it fails to reign in the spate of cancellations.

Its shares fell by 24p to 732'ap yesterday as John O'Brien, franchising director, threatened to fine the company El million if it fails to rein in the troubles at its South West Trains franchise by the end of

Analysts said the threat marked the end of the City's love affair with railway stocks.

Ann Gloag and Brian Souter could be in danger of losing the South West franchise

the rail networks became apparent. One said: "Stagecoach is going into uncharted territory, and the fines which it emerge with will speak volumes about the risks which every other company is facing when things go wrong. At the moment, we know nothing about the downside, and everyone is learning from

Stagecoach's mistakes.
"We are also seeing the different appraoches companies are taking. Stagecoach

as the complexities of running is an aggressive cost-cutting animal, and it's far more likely to run into trouble with the regulator than Virgin, which concentrates on getting more burns on seats and lifting revenue growth.

However, few analysts believe that Stagecoach will face a El million penalty as the company can put much of the blame on engineering works. The £1.2 million hit that Stagecoach inflicted on itself by giving away free tickets is not expected to be surpassed

by an external penalty from the franchising director.

Another analyst attributed the slump in the sector to the end of the privatisation process. "When there was still the likes of Thameslink to be had, the shares of all the bidders were inflated. But now that every franchise has been handed out, this hope premium has completely disappeared from the market."

The fiasco at Stagecoach has sobered up a sector which had spiralled into "ridiculous pan-

tion process drew to a close, he added. The main casualties of this have been Prism Rail, and GB Railways, whose shares trade on the AIM. Prism. whose four franchises include the London-Tilbury-Southend "misery line" and Cardiff Railways, joined the market at 100p before it won any

Its shares shot to 580p when the Thameslink franchise was up for grabs, but have since slumped to 360p after falling 5p yesterday. GB Railways, which runs the Anglia franchise, trebled its market value on its debut on AIM but has seen its shares fall from 287p to 165p after it became clear that it would not win any other part of the franchise.

Almost all of the British train operators have declared an interest in taking a piece of the railway system in continental Europe when it be-comes privatised. They claim that, after bedding down their own franchises, British transport groups will be in pole position to win a significant share of the contiental transport market.

> Threat of fine, page 2 Tempus, page 32

Takeover **Panel** censures **BZW**

BY MARTIN WALLER

BARCLAYS de Zoete Wedd, one of the City's foremost institutions, has been formally criticised by the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers over its actions in the dying days of the £782 million hostile bid for Northern Electric in Decem-

ber last year. Advisers to Northern, which was taken over by CE Electric, the American utility, after an extraordinary four-day exten-sion of the bid timetable by the Panel, claimed last night that the actions of BZW, the company's broker, had delivered Northern Electric into the hands of the Americans.

The Panel delivered judgment yesterday on an investigation into BZW's actions in the last days of the bid. The main issue was a £250,000 performance fee payable to the broker by Northern that was not disclosed to the Panel before BZW bought I.6 per cent of Northern's shares on the stock market.

This purchase was designed to frustrate the bid from CE. BZW was criticised by the Panel for its failure to disclose the existence of the fee.

The extension of the bid timetable, granted once the existence of the performance fee was known, allowed CE to succeed in the takeover by the slenderest of margins, gaining acceptances from 50.3 per cent of the share capital.

One of the Northern team of advisers during the bid commented: "If they had told the Panel about the fee, Northern would still be independent."

But a BZW spokesman said: There's nothing in the Panel's findings that says we didn't play by the rules. There was no deliberate concealment of the fee. There is no suggestion that the fee was an inducement to purchase Northern shares in breach of the Code."

WEEKEND



Anne Ashworth on the lessons of the M&G advert

How to pay the bill for long-term care





Income Peps. The top performing plans

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1,5942* (1.7055) 5,7185* (5.7520) 1,4565* (1.4655) 123,45* (123,43) 104,3 (104.2) Tokyo cłose Yen 123.63 HOSTIFSEA OF Brent 15-day (Jun) \$19.55 (n/a)

London close \$352,85 (\$352.95) * denotes middey trading price

Liffe traded options

Because of technical problems that affected the ransmission of prices information, the table of Liffe traded options published yesterday was rerun from Thursday's edition.

Schroders calls in Imro over delays

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

SCHRODERS Investment Managers has called in Imro. its City regulator, after 12,500 investors in three of its unit trusts suffered delayed dividend payments.

The delay is an embarrass-ment for Schroders, occurring at the height of the Pep selling season and in a week in which it has revealed a £50 million increase in bonuses to its own

Schroders said that it had "teething problems" with WM Company, the consultancy to whom it outsourced trust reporting last year. It said WM had been late presenting its figures, which had held up the distribution of income from its two largest unit trusts, UK Enterprise and UK Equity, both of which manage more than El billion of investors'

pushed back four days to February 19 and February 24 respectively. This had a knockon effect on a third fund. Schroder Global Bond, Investors in the £170 million fund, who expected dividends on February 28, will now have to wait until March 21 for payment via the banks automated clearing system and March 24 for cheques in the post.

> had affected less than a seventh of the 88,700 unit holders in the funds. The company said the problems had been solved and dividends on its other funds would be paid on time. However, it will only pay compen-sation for loss of interest to

Schroders said the delays

investors with large holdings in the funds. The company reported the problems to the Investment

Wickes directors

to make a further break with its troubled past with the resignation of two directors associated with Henry Sweet-baum, its former chairman and chief executive.

Sigoloff will resign as nonexecutive directors at the next annual meeting, the company said vesterday. Only Michael von Brentano, who took over as non-executive chairman when Mr Sweethaum quit, will remain from the original board.

Mr Burrow and Mr Von Brentano waived their rights to a pension last year. According to Bill Grimsey, chief executive, Mr Sigoloff and Sanford Kaplan, who retired from the board in December, have agreed to a accept less than their full pension entitlement. Peter Humphries and Lord Sieff, the form-

to stand down

WICKES, the DIY retailer, is from the company.

Robert Burrow and Sanford interim dividend this year.

By Sarah Cunningham still receiving £12,000 a year

The company yesterday disclosed a pre-tax loss of £55.7 million for 1996, compared with a loss of £279 million in 1995. The 1996 figure is in line with the forecast made at the time of the company's £53.7 million rights issue. As expected, the company will not pay a dividend. Nor will there be an

Last year, like-for-like sales growth was up 3.8 per cent while in the first two months of this year sales were up 13 per cent. Wickes shares rose

112p to 153p. Serious accounting irregu-larities were uncovered at Wickes last June and it later became clear that profits had been overstated. The Serious Fraud Office is continuing an investigation.

As a result, the dividend Managers Regulatory Organer Marks & Spencer chairman, date on both funds was isation this week. two former non-executives, are Tempus, page 32 Heinz unveils \$500m shake-up

FROM RICHARD THOMSON

H J HEINZ the ketchup and baked beans food giant, has announced the biggest reorganisation in its history, including 3,000 job losses and a \$500 million restructuring

The aim of "Project Millenium, as the plan is known, is to cut costs and refocus the company's business on fast-growing Asian and South American markets, with less emphasis on mature

European markets. Heinz will close several factories in Europe and North America and sell businesses which contribute about \$600 million to its \$9.1 billion



O'Reilly: refocusing annual sales. Its 43,000

6 per cent. In Britain, Heinz has factories in Wigan, Lancashire,

ant chairman, has set ambirise in the 1980s.

workforce will be cut by about

ConAgra.

and in Harlesden, northwest London. Tony O'Reilly, the flamboy-

tious new growth targets for Mr Johnson was substanthe company because its performance has flagged in recent years after a spectacular An annual earnings growth target of 10 to 12 per cent, compares with an industry

average of I per cent. Other food companies that have reorganised and cut costs in response to increasing competition include Nabisco. Camphell Soup, Kellogg and

Despite the appointment of William Johnson as president and chief operating officer, making him Dr O'Reilly's heir apparent. Dr O'Reilly is likely to stay for two or three more years to oversee the restructuring.

tially responsible for Heinz's sharp improvement in profits last year by turning round the StarKist tuna and pet foods divisions. For much of the 1990s, Heinz's growth had slowed dramatically, it cut its advertising and launched few new products.

However, growing competiton in traditional markets in the US and Europe is forcing the company to concentrate on newer markets. It plans to boost its share of earnings outside the US from about 40 per cent to more than 50 per cent in five years.



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INSIGHT ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT

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United News & Media upbeat after 12% advance

UNITED News & Media, the company that takes in Express Newspapers and the Meridian and Anglia television franchises, was in upbeat mood yesterday as it reported a 13 per cent rise in underlying annual profits to £290.2 million.

Lord Hollick, chief executive. was enthusiastic about prospects for Channel 5, the new channel due to go on air at the end of this month. He said Channel 5, in which United has a stake of nearly 30 per cent, has spent aggressively on programming - including the

Sakamaki resigns as Nomura president

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT

NOMURA Securities, Janan's top broker, has acted to restore its shattered reputation by replacing its president and pledging to clean up corrupt practices. Hideo Sakamaki announced that he was stepping down as president to shoulder the blame for a scandal over illicit payments to a client connected to Japan's underworld. His announcement fol-

lows the disclosure that two managing directors channelled profits from illicit trades, believed to exceed 70 million yen (£580,000), to a property firm owned by the brother of a prominent racketeer.

The affair has highlighted the sleazy ties between leading Japanese corporations and the *sokaiya*. racketeers who extort money by threatening to expose a company's dubious business practices.

Nomura has been sharply rebuked by the Government for the irregularities, which are being investigated by the Securities and Exchange Surveil lance Commission (SESC). A number of Nomura's most important clients have already distanced themselves from brokerage.

rights to the World Cup qualifying game between England and Poland. Lord Hollick said: "Channel 5 is going to deliver a good share of the market, after the inevitable turbulence of the start. I suspect this is going to perform even better than I had hoped, and I had high expectations of it."

United's £63 million share of Channel 5's start-up costs was one of a host of exceptional items that obscured the 1996 results. The £3 billion merger that created the group last year cost £31 million in fees, and United has spent a further £94 million on restructuring. It set aside £18 million for the cost of integrating Blenheim. the exhibition business bought for £590 million in October. Disposals, including Tolley Publishing and Wagon Finance, led to exceptional prof-

its of £150 million. Unadjusted pre-tax profits showed a rise from £215.3 million to £233.8 million.

Lord Hollick said the group had enjoyed "outstanding per-formances" from its broadcasting and business services divisions. Broadcasting in-creased operating profits 36 per cent to £59.7 million. helped by higher advertising and production revenues. Business services, which includes the Miller Freeman trade magazines and exhibitions business that has been strengthened by the addition of Blenheim, lifted profits 38 per cent to £100.5 million.

The consumer publishing division, including newspa-pers, was held back by a £31 million rise in paper costs, but still increased profits by 7.5 per cent to £81 million. Lord Hollick said the editorial and other changes made at the Express are beginning to turn this around. Analysts reckon the Express still made less than £10 million.

Halving the price of Exchange & Mart has produced a 40 per cent rise in circulation and produced "the virtuous circle where we have more readers, more advertisers, and more leads to advertisers".

Harlow Butler and United's other financial services businesses suffered a 5 per cent fall in profits to ES1.1 million. Lord Hollick said this was very creditable in difficult markets A final dividend of 15.50 will increase the total to 23.5p a share, a 2 per cent rise.

Tempus, page 32



Malcolm Baggott, chief executive of Vitec, which is looking to make further acquisitions

Vitec ready to expand as profits rise by 19%

By Chris Ayres

VITEC, the supplier of broadcasting equipment, yesterday reported a 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £36.6 million (£30.7 million) for the year ended December 31.

The results come after the company's purchase, for \$13.5 million last mouth, of Anton-Bauer, the Connecticut manufacturer of portable camera batteries. The deal was funded by the sale of Vitec's military surveillance business for £25.1 million, which also wiped out the company's debt.

Malcolm Baggott, Viter's chief executive, says that the company is now ready to make further acquisitions. Although Vitec already supplies video-conferencing sys-tems, which allow people in different countries to hold meetings together, Mr Bag-gott said that Vitee was not interested in providing ser-

vices for the Internet. "The Internet is limited by cost and power," he said. "The technology to provide video conferencing over the Internet will not be ready for at least another ten years."

Vitec's turnover was up 13 per cent to £148.5 million (£131.8 million), and earnings per share were 55p (52.3p). A total dividend of 12.1p (10.5p) will be paid on July i.

Courtaulds Textiles to shut plants

COURTAULDS TEXTILES is planning to close two factories in Nottingham with the loss of up to 340 jobs.

employs 188 people, is the company's only lace-making plant in the UK. The group

One of the factories, which fabrics.

ABP to buy Port of

Ipswich for £24m

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

will continue to produce lace and supply customers from factories in France and The other factory produces

IPSWICH'S port is to be sold

to Associated British Ports

(ABP), the company that owns

22 ports around the country.

for £24 million. Half of the

sum ABP pays will go to the

Ipswich, as a trust port, has

had the ability to privatise

itself since the Ports Act was

passed six years ago. After its

authorities asked that it

Government in a levy.

be transferred there. Ron Alexfabrics used to make women's slips and employs 159 people. The business has declined as customers have shifted gling for some time. their preference to stretch

Efforts to develop stretch polyester at the business failed to offset the fall in demand for its traditional fabrics.

Some production will be transferred to Penn Nyla in Derby and up to 60 jobs may

should be sold, Ipswich was

put up for sale by the Govern-

Sir Keith Stuart, ABP chair-

man, said: "Although the Port

of Ipswich is expected to show

only a small profit for 1996

[before privatisation costs],

prospects for growth are now

positive, given its excellent

location and substantial spare

ABP said Ipswich would be

the spearhead for its East

TOURIST

ment two years ago.

Anglian operations.

canacity.

ander, chief executive of the divisions affected, said that the businesses had been strug-

He added: "Future prospects for both businesses are still very poor and there is now no alternative but to propose closure. We deeply regret the proposed job losses and will now turn our efforts to helping those affected to find alternative employment within Courtaulds Textiles or with

other local employers." Courtaulds Textiles scheduled to report its 1990 results next week. Analysts are expecting a sharp decline in profits because of heavy reorganisation costs. After exceptionals, pre-tax profits are forecast at about £1.5 million. compared with £36.5

BAT rejects smoking decision as 'sideshow'

BY PAUL DURMAN

BAT INDUSTRIES, owner of Brown & Williamson, the US tobacco company, yesterday dismissed as "a sideshow" the latest "deleat" in the industry's

American legal battles. The Mississippi Supreme Court rejected on Thursday an attempt by Kirk Fordice, the state governor, to block his own attorney-general's action to recover medical costs from the US tobacco industry.

The Mississippi ruling means the attorney-general's

case will now proceed to trial A BAT spokesman said that

the impact of the decision was purely procedural. "It's a sideshow. It does not have anything to do with the merits of the case, which we expect to win anyway." he said.

The \$940 million suit brought by the Mississippi state is one of 22 being pursued by state attorney generals in a bid to recover

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Apple expected to shed 5,000 jobs

APPLE COMPUTER, the troubled personal computer company, is due to announce its second restructuring in less than a year, with large redundancies and a heavy quarterly loss. A continued decline in sales has forced Apple to consider cutting up to 5,000 of its 13,000 workforce, in addition to lastyear's 3,000 job losses. So far a corporate reorganisation by Gilbert Amelio, the chairman, has failed to stop the company's decline. Steven Jobs, the company's founder, returned two months ago as an adviser after Apple bought.

Next, his software company. Although Mr Jobs says her spends little time at Apple, insiders say that he has already influenced a change in top executives, and that he advocates cutting unprofitable areas of business. Many people believe he may eventually replace Mr Amelio as chairman.

Apple expects revenues for this fiscal year to drop by 20 per cent, to around \$8 billion, and says that it will not make any profits until September. According to analysts, the fall in revenues means the company will have to cut at least \$400 million from its costs to break even.

Babcock vacancies

BABCOCK INTERNATIONAL the engineering group that bought Rosyth Royal Dockyard, is searching for two key directors after the resignations of Nick Salmon, chiefexecutive, and Erik Porter, finance director. Mr Salmon is to become managing director of GEC Alsthom's power generation business, while Mr Porter is to retire by the end of the year. The departures follow appointments to strengthen the group divisional management team. Until a replacement is found for Mr Salmon, John Parker, executive chairman, will stand in as chief executive.

KBC valued at £90m

KBC ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES, the engineering group that provides consultancy and support services for the oil industry, is expected to be valued at almost £90 million when it makes its stock market debut on March.
20. The company, which was founded in 1979, hopes to raise £5.3 million through the placing of 17.5 million shares on the main list. The placing is being underwritten by Cazenove & Co. KBC's pre-tax profits were £6.1 million (£2.7 million) for the year to December 31 on turnover of £27.3 million (£17.6 million).

Warning by Ransomes

SHARES of Ransomes fell 18p to 32p after the supplier of grass cutting equipment warned investors that pre-tax profits for the six months to the end of March would be substantially below current market expectations and the £6.7 million profit reported in the first half of the previous year. The company blamed weak demand in the commercial market, particularly in mainland Europe, and caution shown by consumer dealers over the winter period. Even though the main retail selling season is not yet under way, managers believe that the shortfall is unlikely to be made good in the second half.

Aquarius in ascendant

AQUARIUS, the household products group, reported better than expected results for the year ending January 31, after its flotation on the stock market three months ago. Operating profits were £4.75 million, confirming the group's forecast last year that profit before interest and tax would not be less than £4.6 million. Pro forma earnings per share were 14.38p. 5 per cent more than the pro forma forecast of 13.7p. Pre-tax profits were up 76 per cent, from £2 million to £3.54 million, helped by a 30 per cent increase in sales, from £23.4 million to £30.5 million. A dividend of 0.85p will be paid on June 18.

Rackwood lifts payout

RACKWOOD MINERAL, the Derbyshire coal mining and marketing group, reported a 30 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, from £1.41 million to £1.83 million, for the year ending December 31. Last year, the group, which has operations in Britain, France and America, received planning permission for a mine in Ayrshire, which is expected to provide 500,000 tonnes of coal every year for the next ten years. Rackwood's turnover was up 52 per cent, from £17.85 million to £27.09 million, but earnings per share fell 21 per cent, from 7.6p to 6p. A dividend of 3.3p (3p) is due on May 30.

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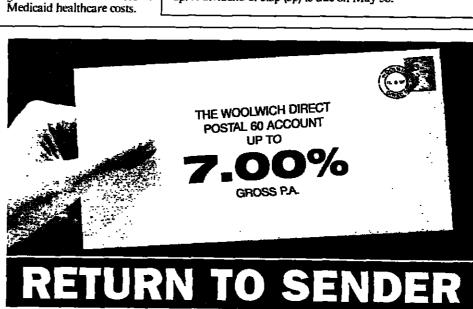
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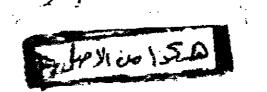
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A WORKING WEEK FOR: SONU SHIVDASANI

The man on the Malé-London milk run

Jon Ashworth meets the creator of a luxury island resort in the Maldives, who plans to widen the Robinson Crusoe experience

Wednesday

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that quiet, stress-iree break, should steer well clear of the Maldives, those glittering gems off the coast of India. For the first time in several years, the Government has

put 14 islands up for the latest attempt to rake in some much-needed funds. Such is the demand that each island is expected to attract between 20 and 30 bids. Gazumping has nothing on this.

Sonu Shivdasani got in early. About six years ago, he snapped up one of the more remote Maldivian islands and set about turning it into the ultimate holiday getaway. Today, his resort, Soneva Fushi, is being hailed as the "hip" new destination by enamoured travel scribes. There are plans to replicate the formula

None of this would be remotely of interest for this column, were it not for our hero's quintessential Britishness. Shivdasani, 31, greets me at the door of his E5.5 million home in Holland Park. west London, fraaaatfully well-spoken, every bit the civilised Englishman. Born in London, he attended Eton and St Catherine's, Oxford, where he read English literature, and later fell into the world of

luxury hotels. He invested in Soneva Pavilion, a hotel management company based in Bangkok, and struck upon the Maldives, where he had holidayed, as an ideal location for his first venture. Normally you cannot buy a Maldivian island as such - they

are leased, typically, for \$2 million to \$3 million per year -- but Shivdasani sensed the potential of Kunfunadhoo, his chosen patch of sand. "It's actually the largest island for development in the Maldives." he recalls, ushering me into his sumptuous living room. "When we bought it, it was a lemon. No one wanted it."

The problem was the location — far from the capital, Male, where the main airport is situated. There is the apocryphal tale of the holidaymakers who set off in a local fishing boat, or dhoni, and ran into fierce winds and heavy seas. It took four days to reach the island. They had a shower, were given some food, then had to rush off to catch the flight home.

Shivdasani took swift remedial action. He bought Hummingbird, the local helicopter company, and now merrily islands in a fleet of redoubtable Russian Mil-8 helicopters. They're built for a military environment," he says, brandishing photographs of aquamarine sea and dazzling white sand. They are a quarter of the price of American ones." Competition from a local float-plane operator is threatening to bite into his territory...

Fushi means "little island" and Soneva is a play on names - Sonu and his Swedish wife, Eva, a former Vogue cover

girl, and interior designer. Classic jetsetters, they spend their weeks flitting between Thailand, the Maldives and India, and the ski slopes of Europe and North America. One will typically encounter them on Emirates - business class, of course — on the milk run between Malé and London.

Quite where the cash comes from is unclear, but the scent of old, moneyed wealth hangs heavily. Shivdasani's parents were born in India, but he might as well be English. "My father was up at Cambridge during the Partition," he says. "My grandfather suggested he didn't come back, because it was a real mess. He was a banker for a while, had a bank in Zurich, went into trading in Nigeria ..."
It is said that Shivdasani Sr once

offered to buy the Dorchester for his wife, but she did not care for the place. Whatever, his son has clearly inherited his father's nose for a deal.

"I think it must be the Indian background," he laughs, uncorking a bottle from the family vineyard in Provence. Indians are quite commercially orientated. You see them as traders. They've generally done quite well."

He certainly called the market right in the Maldives, where the Government is loath to sell off its assets to any old buyer. Of 1,190 islands in 26 atolls stretching 500

miles, only 200 are inhabited by locals. Of the 990 uninhabited islands. 74 have been developed as tourist resorts. Even after the latest bout of activity, more than 90 per cent of the islands will remain in their pristine state. "For a new country, they're actually very clever in their attitude to development. They've zoned certain islands for sand.

Others for coral."

6 His resort,

Soneva Fushi.

is hailed as

the 'hip' new

destination ?

The Maldivian Government is widening the trading base to encourage investment in offshore banking, fisheries, cargo and oil storage, transportation and textiles. British companies with a significant local presence include Cable and Wireless, currently introducing telephone services to the more isolated atolls. Anthony Nelson, the British Trade Minister, recently urged UK investors to consider sectors like construction and healthcare.

Shivdasani may be the "Mr Big" of the Maldives, with his island and helicopter interests, but he is also using the archipelago as a test-bed for greater ambitions. Opened in the autumn of 1995, his island resort could prove a model for similar boutique-style hotels under the

Guests are pampered without having to dress for the occasion. Shivdasani says: "It's Robinson Crusoe, and our theme is luxuriously back to nature. That's our motto." Faxes are delivered in bamboo canisters rather than envelopes, saving paper. Guests pad about barefoot, trying not to step on the chickens and rabbits.

Shivdasani pays the Government an annual lease rental of \$2,000-\$3,000 per bed, plus bed tax of \$6 per occupied bed



Sonu Shivdasani spends up to 90 per cent of his time in Asia, but a lot of faxes are routed through London, where much of the business is conducted

night. He is seeking to unlock some capital by selling ten residential villas for a tidy \$1 million each. The owners will typically use them for two to three months a year, then "lease" them back to the resort, sharing the revenue.

Soneva Fushi required a big investment, but the potential returns are good. "You're talking about a three-year payback, which is good for the hotel industry. In the Maldives, of course, you have a high fixed overhead, in terms of building the infrastructure. We generate all our power, we desalinate the water. there are jemies. That's a big initial capital

Much of Shivdasani's business is routed through London, but his office, as such, is wherever he happens to be. Faxes and e-mail make global communication relatively straightforward - even in the Maldives. Typically, Shivdasani will spend the week in Male, meeting ministers and officials, then board one of his helicopters for the 35-minute hop to the island. He stays in whatever room is available. His idea of the Friday night commute is a dhoni ride to a nearby sandbank, where guests are treated to

evening cocktails. The aim is to emulate other upmarket

operators - more Aman than Banyan Tree - with a string of boutique resorts throughout the region. Soneva Pavilion has secured a 13-acre site near the Big Buddha on Ko Samui in southern

Thailand. "The idea is to do, again, the Tuesday high-end, but atten-Soneva standard -tion to local culture Wednesday and design." Thursday_

Vietnam is among the favoured targets, even though land prices there are comparatively high. Soneva has picked up the contract to run Ana Mandara, a new 64room resort in Nha Trang, up the coast from Ho Chi Minh City, and has its eye

on similar deals. There is no competition to speak of. "A lot of the hotels are guesthouses - conversions of those Russian communist blocks."

There is also a company doctor's role to be found in Asia, where developers are often overoptimistic in their forecasts. The Thais, in particular, are fanatical about hotels - owning one is a great status symbol - and many of the ventures run into trouble. "There are a lot of distressed properties in Thailand, not meeting their original budget, not meeting their cashflow expectations, not servicing their debt. The only way out is for them to get management in to improve their performance."

Shivdasani tends to spend two to three weeks at a time in the Maldives, with side

trips to Bombay, where Soneva has an office. He visits Bangkok once a month, Vietnam and Indonesia occasionally, and is not often to be found in the UK. I will spend 80-90 per cent of my time in Asia, but a lot of faxes are routed through London. The office is here, and a lot of business passes through here." The west London mansion has just been sold something "smaller" will suffice - and there is a cottage in Oxfordshire, left over

from university days.

Back in the Maldives, celebrities continue to beat a path to Soneva Fushi's door. The resort is currently running a special aimed at scuba divers, in which anyone who fails to see a manta ray or whale shark during their stay will stay for free. Be sure to take your speargun.

HIDDEN ASSETS

Art brings splash of colour to sterile surroundings

er it is a tapestry in a ' bank, a sculpture on a conference room table or a series of prints on an office wall — has an enormous responsibility. It must complement the architecture of the building, create a distinct image for the corporation. contribute to the appreciation of the arts in general and provide a counterbalance to the increased technological sterility of many office environments.

Aware of such challenges, SmithKline Beecham has decided to set up an art collection for its new offices in Harlow. The offices, however, are not naturally suited to art. One is an R&D laboratory, the other is a specialist pharmaceutical technology centre.

SmithKline Beecham understood that art in this context would not work merely as a panacea for

The state of the s

Joanna Pitman on the formula used by SmithKline Beecham to brighten offices

sterile surroundings. It would have to offer more and the choice of works was not going to be easy. media."

"With 450 scientists working in these buildings, we knew we would never reach a consensus," says Richard Collis, director of site operations. Therefore, he sought advice from Peter Harris, of Art for Offices.

Mr Harris says: "Choosing art to match the bold design statements of the new buildings was not easy. We were asked to select works that reflect the aspirations of the two departments.

"It was a particularly ambitious brief as most of the occupants of the buildings wanted art that had a 'wow' factor. But within that definition, some wanted abstract

wanted figurative works with humour and varied

He advised the company to commission new art abstract for the R&D laboratory and figurative for the technology centre. The result is a catholic collection of cutting-edge classics embracing both the traditional and the modern, the figurative and the abstract.

And the artists are equally varied. Graham Jones has created a curved glass sculptured screen for the entrance of the R&D laboratory. The piece is a dramatic blue, red and white angular design, a striking image that transmits a myriad of colours on to the entrance hall. He is one of the world's leading glass

artists and has established an international reputation through his commissions from Coca-Cola, Kleinwort Benson and ICI. As his star continues to rise, his work is likely to become one of the iewels of the collection.

Julian Stocks has built a painted glass sculpture for the entrance lobby. It is designed to be an "engaging, linear, mental image, full of details and pictures, penetrated by a pure inspirational element that has no language but that which the viewer experiences".

David Jacobson, a stone sculptor whose work is well known in Asian corporate settings, has produced a series of sculptures that interrelate with water for the R&D office. Sophie Pattinson has

made large, abstract wall tapestries, and Louise Soloway has created a painted fibreglass bas-relief wall hanging for the pharmaceutical technology building. "On my first trip to the site I was immediately fascinated by all the complicated machinery, curious scientific devices and people looking austere in white coats and goggles. The effects of clear and translucent resins, metallic finishes and oil paints are intended to portray the atmosphere in the office."

Each artist has created a work in direct response to the office surroundings. The collection will be valuable in its specific context (the total budget was only £100,000). and that is its intention. Now Mr Collis and Mr Harris are merely awaiting a response from the staff.

ELECTION PEP

FROM LEGAL & GENERAL

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be asked, if eligible, to vote in a general election. For the parties involved, it will be a definite turning point in their fortunes. Indeed, in the fortunes of the whole country. But what about your fortune? Your investments? What awaits you in the wave of uncertainty that inevitably surrounds the political rollercoaster? For you, we have created a product that removes some of the uncertainties and provides

CALL FOR OUR MANIFESTO TODAY Act now. Election PEP II must close 11 April 1997

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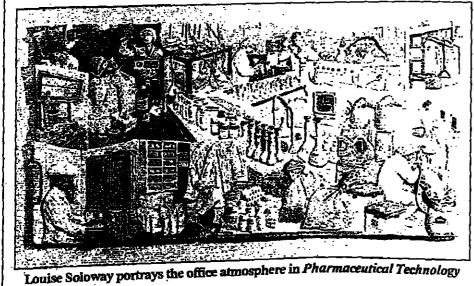
0500 1166 22 **ELECTION PEP II**

FREE ? DAYS A WEEK Ram TO 8pm PLEASE QUOTE REF. B2DL01 For their protection calls will usually be accounted and resolvedy Internet address: http://www.legal-and-general.cn.uk

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares dive as shakeout hits Shield Diagnostics

IN just ten minutes yesterday the share price of Shield Diagnostics plunged from 903p to a low of 507p as market-makers' telephones turned red hot across the

It followed an announcement from Shield that tenyear-old blood samples forming part of a US study, which Shield joined last year, had clotted. The company gave warning that analysis from the samples was likely to lead

to misleading conclusions.

The news struck terror into investors who had been riding shares of Shield up from a low of 130p this year on growing optimism about the commercial viability of its AFT process, which can detect heart disease in the early stages.

Winterflood Securities, the market-maker specialising in smaller companies, hore the brunt of yesterday's shakeout. With the firm's 24 telephone lines jammed, all traders were called on to help out. It is estimated that a further 90 brokers failed to get through to execute their orders, such

was the scramble. Chris Potts, at Winterflood. said: "We didn't even get time to read the full statement. which was actually quite bullish at the end. People panicked. It was the private clients who sold. The professional punters were buyers of the stock at the lower levels."

In just 20 minutes a total of one million shares had changed hands. By the close of business Shield was 13712p down on the day at 66712p. having been as high as 919p with a total of 2.74 million shares traded. The price remains 64p up on the week.

Elsewhere in the biotech sector Biocompatibles International jumped 6212p at £12.3712 and BTG 50p to 672 2p. Cortecs International was another firm market, adding 2012p at 25612p. The group is due to publish some bullish news on its treatment for diabetes anyday now.

Scotia Holdings rallied 35p to 445p, but still remains 160p down on the week. Earlier this week it was refused permission to market Tarabetic in

The rest of the equity market ended the week on a high note, encouraged by an open-ing rally by the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street in the wake of Thursday's 160-point fall on interest rate fears. The FT-SE 100

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Lord Hollick, left, and David Arculus of United News, up 30p

46.7 deficit to finish at its best of the day with a rise of 26.6 at 4,424.3. That is a rise on the week of four points. A total of 917 million shares were traded.

Stagecoach tumbled 24p to 732120 under the threat of a El million fine being levied by Opraf, the railway regulator. It has told the operator of

payments. The price was also spiced by reports that GEC may have landed a £2 billion contract to build three new Trafalear class nuclear submarines for the Ministry of Defence.

Better than expected figures from United News & Media. where Lord Hollick is chief executive and David Arculus chief operating officer, were

Pizza Express hovers at a high of 666p. helped by "buy" recommendations from securities houses such as Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais. UBS, the company's own newly appointed broker, is also singing its praise. The group plans to open 20 new outlets.

South West Trains to get its act together and live up to the promises made in its franchise agreement.

GEC stood out with a rise of 11¹2p at 394¹2p after Merrill Lynch, the broker, recommended the shares as a "buy". It is believed to be telling clients that the group is planning to speed up its disposal programme and will start handing cash back to shareholders in the shape of increased dividends or bonus

rewarded with a jump of 30p at 77012p. The 12 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £290.2 million was accompanied by the news that margins had also improved. Lord Hollick. chief executive, expects to make savings of £43 million a year by 1998 as a result of the

Reckitt & Colman continued to draw strength from Thursday's profits news with a jump of 40¹2p at 827¹2p. Panmure Gordon, the broker.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Larent press Current press

COMMODITIES

Week's	
change	
	Bid approach
+52%	Bid speculation
+65p	Further speculative buying
-24%p	Profits setback
159p	Tarabetic licence withheld
+330	Brokers' recommendation
	Granada denies bid plans
-31%p	Brokers downgrade forecasts
+150	Bullish about prospects
. ,	

the shares. There is also persistent talk that a bidder for the company will eventually emerge. Unilever, up 241:2p at £16.25, continues to be mentioned as a potential

Shaw & Co, the broker, has joined the growing number of supporters of Burton Group. 34p lighter at 155p. It met the company earlier this week. along with a number of institutions, and was dearly impressed. February appears to have been a good month for Burton and interim figures in May look certain to live up to expectations. Shaw has pencilled in full-year profits of

£200 million. The rest of the retail sector spent another shaky session after the latest report suggesting that some of them are having a difficult time of it. Carpetright fell 22p to 590¹2p.
Great Universal Stores 6¹2p to 65lp, DFS 9¹2p to 600¹2p, and Dixons 4¹2p to 509¹2p.

The presence of a large buyer sent shares of George Wimpey 712p higher to 15112p as turnover reached 2.57 million shares. A line of one million shares was reported to have gone through the market at the 148p level.

A profits warning left Ransomes nursing a fall of 18p at 32p. Claims that Sedgwick, the

insurance broker, is about to merge with Willis Corroon lifted its price 2¹2p to 129p. Willis Corroon closed 3p dearer at 16012 p. □ GILT-EDGED: Prices

closed narrowly mixed after a hesitant start. Brokers said there was little incentive by institutional investors to open fresh positions ahead of next week's inflation numbers. The June series of the long ilt ended a tick firmer at

E111532 as a total of 52,000 contracts were completed. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was a tick dearer at £1042132, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £116 easier at £1032132. The best performance was re-served for index-linked issues

which ended £12 up on the

□ NEW YORK: Shares were was a knee-jerk response to Thursday's sell-off. But bonds were muted and fears remained over the direction of interest rates. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 52.72 points higher at

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones
Tokyo: Nikkei average
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Amsterdam: EOE Index
Sydney: AO
Frankfurt DAX 3359.29 (+9.48)
Singapore: 2135.46 (-18.87)
Brussels: 121.50.82 (-42.53)

2645.62 (+13.52)

Zurich: SKA Gen
London:
FT 30 2930.2 (+22.9
FT 100 4424.3 (+26.6
FTSE MId 250 4707.8 (-12.4
FTSE 350 2184.4 (+9.2
FTSE Eurotrack 100 2174.00 (-9.53
FT All-Share 2154.51 (+7.71
FT Non Financials 2208-1 (+9.89
FT Fixed Interest 118.91 (-0.44
FT Gov Secs
Bargains 5649
SEAO Volume 917.1m
US\$ 1.6012 (+0.0039
German Mark 2.7212 (+0.0039
Exchange Index
Bank of England official close (4pm)

RECENT ISSUES

154.4 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100 153.9 Jan (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

Anglo-Weish	10312		
Aortech	1225		
Aurora inv Trust	100		
Birmingham City	51	_	
Calidore Warrants			
Cambridge Minl Res	14	+	
Centrica (751:)	604	-	
Core Group	325	- :	
Dobbles Gran Cits	260		
Energy Group (525)	512	_	
Girovend Csh Sys	1881		
Howle	30'ı		
Nord Anglo Edetn	154	-	
Psd Group	27312	+	
River & Merc 1st UK	100		
Screen	51,		
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Technoplast	11312		
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RIGHTS ISSUES

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MAJOR CHANGES

- 1	COOLE
İ	Jarvis 238':p (+12p)
	Allied Domecq 461p (+17'ap)
ı	Vitec 659p (+21p)
	Guinness 487'40 (+140)
	Scot & New 700p (+18°-p)
ı	Capita Group 789p (+19p)
	AB Food 511'ap (+12p)
ľ	FALLS:
1	Ransomes
-	Capital Inds 1871ap (-21p)
	Norbain 260p (-24p)
ı	Lamont 154p (-11p)
	Smart (J)
1	Greencore 353p (-141-p)
1	Carpetright 5901-p (-22p)
	Stagecoach 7321 p (-24p)
-	Scott Radio 370'2p (-12p)

BAT ... 540'-p (-14p)

Closing Prices Page 49

...... 730p (-17'ap)

Caird Group

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

TEMPUS

Dull but worth something

Arculus, from Emap, so im-

Arculus was extolling the

powerful relationship be-

ween exhibitions and trade

magazines. The strong growth at Miller Freeman

At the moment, the most

important project is the im-

minent launch of Channel 5.

where United has a 30 per

CHANNEL HOPPING

portant. Yesterday

looks set to continue.

yesterday of a Railtrack director it might be misleading. Compared with Stagewach. Railtrack is a distinctly dull business, hardly a train d grande vitesse. The heavily regulated company provides infrastructure and collects a toll, about as exciting as owning the M25.

That is why Railtrack's shares are in the ascendancy and why Stagecoach and the other train operators may find that the rail sector is a drag on their share prices. Both companies have a regulator to deal with but. as Stagecoach has found, regulation is different when your customer is an irritable commuter. Railtrack's customers are the train operators, who are unlikely to see their cause

championed in the media. There are other good reasons why investors

MAN ejected from speeding train. It sounds right, but in the case of the abrupt departure train operating privateers. The track provider was sold with a huge asset base, while the train operators bought nowt but a licence to run trains, an income stream with a falling subsidy. Stagecoach is expecting little growth in traffic and hopes to keep profits moving by cutting costs, hence its little problem with driver shortages. Other operators are hoping for good traffic growth, a view almost endearing in its optimism bearing in mind the historic decline in passenger numbers.

Railtrack also aims to cut costs but its targets are the maintenance contractors who provide it with services. No consumer will squeal if their margins are trimmed. The only puzzle that remains is why the departing director deserved a three-year contract: extravagant, given the political climate.

cent stake. If Charinel 5

makes the traditional

botched debut that seems obligatory for TV channels,

City sentiment may turn

But with the advertising outlook good in a benign

economy, the group's pros-

pects look secure. Well worth

buying on any signs of

against United's shares.

United News

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA has been so busy over the past 18 months that its 1996 results were obscured by a rash of one-off profits and losses. Thus far, the benefits of last year's merger with Lord Hollick's MAI are coming through strongly. The reorganisation of the group is forecast to produce annual savings of £43 million by 1998. With the Labour peer in ebullient mood yesterday. the shares ended the day 30p

up at 7705 p. Media watchers may find the television interests more glamorous and the fate of the Express newspapers more intriguing. But last autumn's deal with Blenheim has made exhibitions and other business services by far the biggest contributor to profits. That is what makes the recent recruitment of David

Wickes WICKES has bungled so

much, it is about time for it to attempt a revival. The loss for last year was as forecast, but the 13 per cent like-for-like sales growth in the two months to the end of February was interesting.

With real improvement in the housing market in the past few months, it would have been appalling for Wickes not to have done well. but, nonetheless, it deserves some credit. . However, the market will expect similar figures from

other DIY players, such as Kingfisher. Having left Wickes alone in its troubles, they will now be taking it seriously as a competitor again. alone to consolidate its recovery and it is probably too

early to predict whether it will be able to keep up this

DOLLAR RATES

absence of news on the sale of

its European operations, the continuing absence of any sign of a bid, and ahead of any sign that sales growth is sustainable, investors would do well to leave Wickes in the sin bin.

Vitec

VITEC is an astonishing company. A cursory reading of its results — flat earnings from a supplier of photographic equipment - might suggest otherwise. Indeed, the immediate outlook is not particularly wonderful. Underlying profits will hardly increase, because of the dearer pound, but the reasons to own Vitec shares are

its longer term potential. The company has an effective monopoly in a very obscure market: stands for studio broadcasting equipment and tripods for professional photographers.

Its market share in the broadcast sector is 80 per At the end of the day, in the cent, a situation that is toler-

Mar H Mar B midday close

too small for regulators to worry about. What is more interesting is that Vitec is highly acquisitive and continues to find similar businesses in the photographic sector to add to its album.

Since the year end, the company picked up a maker of specialist batteries used for broadcast equipment and the balance sheet gives it the potential of spending £100 million on further acquisitions. The company is cash rich,

with free cashflow, after interest, dividends and tax, last year of about £27 million. Unfortunately, Vitee has a problem: its tax charge is ris-

ing, a consequence of the loss of tax privileges in its Italian manufacturing base. Now at 27 per cent, it will

rise to a normal rate over the current year, but Vitec is compensating investors by boosting the dividend. Up 15 per cent and covered more than four times, investors should expect more this year,

ated because the market is EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

WALL STREET

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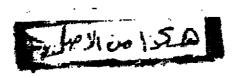
THE TIMES

Sara McCon

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OVER THERE 44

Make the most of Britain's currency gains

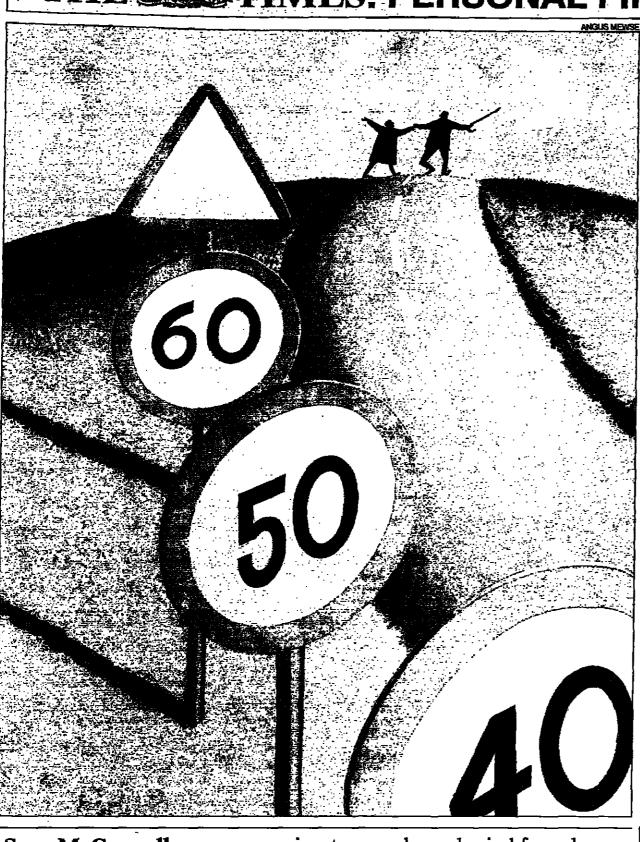
WEEKEND MONEY

SAFE BET? 37

Investors won't gamble on trusts



THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Care policy has limited appeal

ensions and long-term care are fast moving to tion debate. The Conservatives are continuing their drive to encourage us to plan for our retirement, a period of our lives which today can begin at 50 and last for

another 40 years. After their announcement last week of plans to privatise the state pension system and compel the nation to make adequate retirement provi-sion, John Major and his colleagues turned to the complex problem of paying for long-term care, a big concern among many middle-income

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, unveiled a longterm care "partnership scheme" based on schemes operating in several US states. If his party emerges triumphant at the election, a new Community Care (Residential Charges) Bill implementing the proposals would be immediately presented to Parliament. In response to the Dorrell plans the Labour Party said that, if it formed the next government, it would establish a royal commission to look at the funding problem. In this case, a solution could be years away.

Under the Dorrell scheme, anyone with assets and savings of more than £16,000, including their home, will have the option of buying an insurance policy to ring-fence" and protect their capital from means testing. Mr Dorrell's draft Bill proposes that, for every El of private insurance a person buys, the local authority will disregard £1.50 worth of assets when it Marianne Curphey reports on

the Government's proposals to

provide for retirement needs

Counting the cost today, page 34

Insurers believe that the Govprotect a house worth £60,000, a person would have to find

ernment chose the figure of £1.50 rather than £2 for every El of insurance bought because of the open-ended nature of the commitment. Mr Dorrell wished to limit the cost to the taxpayer. While the politicans argue

arion Sa

over which arrangement is most viable, each week 800 elderly people are having to sell their home to pay for longterm nursing home care, which costs between £350 and £500 a week. There is a one-infour chance that an individual will need constant care in a home in their last years. Long-term care costs the State £22

billion a year, or 3.6 per cent of

gross domestic product, and, as the population ages, these

Anyone applying to their local authority for help with residen-tial care bills is means-tested.

Only people with total assets

worth less than £10,000 can

have the whole of the cost of their care paid for by the State. Those with assets worth

more than £10,000 have to

make a contribution to the cost

which rises on a sliding scale

according to what capital they

have. Those with assets of

more than £16,000 have to pay

figures will increase.

approximately £50,000 worth of insurance value. This is the difference between £10,000 the amount that would have been wholly disregarded any-way - and £60,000. Since the Government will give £1.50 for every £1 of

insurance, the actual amount of insurance the owner needs to find is about £33,000. The insurance premiums will vary between individuals

and will be greater for women than for men, since women are expected to live longer.

According to the Depart-ment of Health, an average

lump-sum premium of about

£7,000 in the case of a man and £11,000 for a woman

would protect a property worth £80,000 under the

scheme. For a man, an £8,000

premium would protect a E100,000 home and £9,000

would safeguard property worth £120,000. The proposals

also allow people to top up residential care arranged by

the local authority from their

own resources. The DoH fig-

ures are much lower than

those quoted by leading pro-

Insurers claim the scheme

viders of long-term care.

homes and assets are worth £40,000 to £70,000. This is because a pensioner with a home worth £60,000 would need insurance to cover £44,000 of assets, allowing for the Government's disregard of £16,000. For a male non-smoker aged 65, such a premium would be an estimated £8,929 or £55 a month for cover for three years, according to Bupa, one of the leading healthcare providers.

omeone with a £90,000 home would need to protect £74,000 worth of assets and to pay a single premium of £15,085. This is prohibitively high for many.

The proposals have received a muted response from insurance companies and from charities. PPP lifetime care claims that twice as many people, or two million, would have benefited from a £2 for a El scheme. Bupa says Mr Dorrell's proposals would be of "significant benefit to those with assets of £60,000 or less which is around 750,000".

Consumer groups are anxious that insurance companies may raise premiums for those with a family history of senile dementia or Alzheimer's disease, Paul Seymour, chairman of the Continuing Care Conference, a coalition of commercial and charitable organisations. said: "If you are in need of care. you should get care, regardless of your income."

Sally Greengross, directorgeneral of Age Concern England, said: To have an insurance policy to protect assets you need a good income

Sara McConnell on a concession to members denied free shares

▼ ampaigners for dis-abled and elderly✓ people excluded from building society borns pay-outs won a victory this week when the Alliance & Leicester agreed to examine ways of making charitable donations to disabled people or charities

after it becomes a bank. The A&L concession will not allow excluded savers to qualify for free shares. But its move will be seen as a positive attempt to make amends to thousands of members excluded from receiving free shares worth up to £5,000. The Times has consistently highlighted the plight of disabled and elderly building society savers who cannot handle their own financial affairs and whose accounts are held in trust by friends, relatives or care staff. Under bonus schemes pro-

Disabled win victory over **A&L** exclusion

posed by the Halifax, Wool-wich and Alliance & Leicester, such savers are excluded from receiving free shares if their society becomes a bank because they are not the first

ies have consistently argued that only first-named members qualify for bonuses. Written confirmation of the A&L concession came just

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth hours before the society was set to come under fierce attack in the House of Commons by Douglas French, the campaigning backbench MP. Mr French is piloting a Private Member's Bill through Parliament that would allow payments to be made to any saver whose account is held in trust. The Bill could receive Royal Assent by early next month.

In a letter to Mr French, John Caine, the A&L head of corporate affairs, stressed the society's sympathy with the aims of the French Bill. It continued: "With this in mind. it is intended that an item will be placed on the agenda of the PLC board after flotation to seek approval in principle for the provision of funding for an appropriate charitable donation to disabled persons or

continued on page 35

will help only a limited num- and an asset worth the entire bill. Under the proposals, to means-tests applicants for care. ber, mainly those whose ORATE BOND PEP

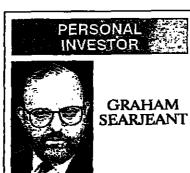
Please take your money back

veryone loves a tax break, except the other taxpayers. But we do not care to admit it. Elaborate theories are developed to justify on higher grounds the schemes the inland Revenue hates. Only if the tax break is removed do we really learn if this was a brilliant idea or just a distortion.

payouts to pension funds. Some £7 billion was paid out last year. Companies can still pay special dividends to all shareholders on the normal tax basis. But schemes that focused on those who gained the tax break lost their gloss. The most popular method was the

share buyback. Companies would use "surplus" funds to buy their own shares and cancel them. Financial gurus insisted that this benefited all shareholders. If the surplus funds earned less than interest on borrowed money, which was usually the case after all taxes are taken into account, earnings per share would

Buybacks were treated as distributions, to the extent that the price exceeds nominal value. Those not liable to tax could claim back the imputed dividend tax, making shares sold at market price worth up to 25 per cent more. Companies brokers stood in the market buying or just contacted big fund managers representing pension funds. Smaller independent funds and charities usually did not get a look-in, let alone low-income private shareholders. Once this tax benefit was lost, buy-



backs faced a new test. Had directors suddenly become humble, volunteering that others could invest money better? Or were they just under pressure from fund managers, who waved the threat of a takeover bid unless they came up with the cash to boost that year's returns?

business fast were diminishing or where a company that did well in the past was adjusting to a slower rate of growth. Short-term financial engineering still features. Clever finance directors exploit relatively low interest rates to replace expensive equity capital with loans. The ensuing higher risk will not appear in the accounts.

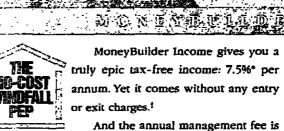
Techniques are also changing. Barclays has so far had three goes recently at trying to buy back £300 million of stock in the market, but each time found that offering a modest premium brought a modest response.

Barclays insists this is theoretically superior to a special dividend, since earnings benefits are concentrated on the remaining shareholders. Buybacks are perhaps better used to support a share when its price, or the market as a whole, is weak.

Private investors might prefer the principle that all should be treated equally. Where companies return capital on a modest but semi-regular basis. special dividends have much to commend them, until the next tax change. For a genuine one-off scheme, Iceland Group, advised by Natwest Markets and Rothschild, appears to have come up with something better.

offered all shareholders a goodly premium for three eighths of their shares, with an option to take more of less to the extent that preferences cancel out. The company will then rely on strong cashflow to service heavy borrowings and to generate higher returns in a much tougher market for food retailing. It is doing so by a scheme of arrangement designed to minimise capital gains problems. Fortunately, it has only 10.000 shareholders, which makes the exercise cheaper.

lurk. But there are already signs that removing the tax break will remove distortions. Investors expect most companies to invest on their behalf, but know that diversification away from a big, low-growth business is often a costly failure. In such cases, money should be returned in ways carefully tailored to the needs of all shareholders.



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Last autumn, the Chancellor finally stopped subsidising companies capital

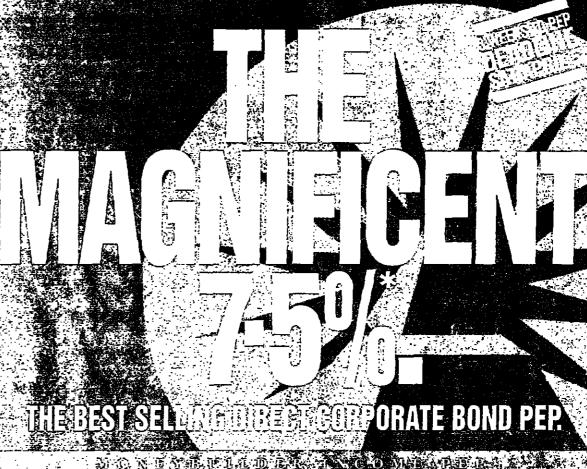
rise and all would benefit. The process, however, benefited some shareholders more than others.



Genuine cases arose, for instance, when one arm of a group was sold, where returns from expanding the main

This week, the frozen food group

This scheme is untried, so snags may



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Helen Pridham on the options for long-term care

Protection of assets is the biggest worry

The Government's pro-posals to encourage long-term care insurance for the elderly announced by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, earlier this week will only come into force if the Tories are re-elected.

If Labour takes over they are likely to be shelved while a royal commission reviews the situation. This leaves people reaching retirement now with a dilemma. Should they or shouldn't they take out insurance or is there other action they can take to offset the erosion of their assets should they require care later in life?

The first thing to bear in mind is that the likelihood that you will actually need longterm care is fairly low. Sally Greengross, director-general of Age Concern, has expressed concern that the problem may be exaggerated.

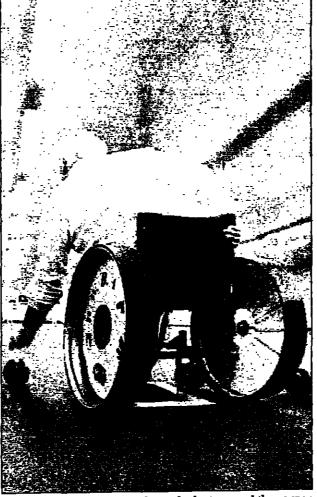
She warned against "scaremongering", saying: "It's cru-cial that older people understand that around one in 20 people are currently in long-term care. When you reach the age of 85, your chances of needing long-term care are only one in four." The main worry for many

older people is what will happen to the capital tied up in their home if they need residential care. They want to leave this asset to their children. Although it will not be taken into account as long as it is still lived in by your spouse or another relative aged over 60, or a younger relative who is "incapacitated", it will be taken into account otherwise and, if it is valued at over £16,000, the local authority

Many people wonder if they can get round this problem by giving away all or part of the value of their home in advance. The snag is that this could be regarded as "deliberate deprivation". If it is decided that you have knowingly given away assets to avoid paying for care, a local author-ity may assess you as if you still had the capital.

will expect you to pay care fees.

If assets are transferred within six months of a person entering a home or while you are in a home, a local authority has powers to recover money from the person to whom the assets were given. If is relatively short. According



Healthy now, but care needs can be just around the corner

the transfer is made more than six months earlier the position is uncertain.

Age Concern says an authority could still consider that you are capable of payment but says it is not yet clear to what extent councils will pursue such debts.

If you transfer all or part of your interest in your home to adult children who subsequently become involved in acrimonious divorce proceedings, its value may be counted in a divorce settlement. In view of these uncertainties. anyone considering a transfer of assets is strongly advised to take detailed legal and financial advice first.

Remember that, even if you do enter a care home and have to pay the fees, it may not deplete your capital as much as you fear. The average stay to Ms Greengross: "Many older people die shortly after they enter residential or nursing home care."

An alternative is to take out long-term care insurance in advance. The leading com-pany in the field, PPP, says that it will allow anybody who takes out one of its policies now to switch to a new contract when the Government finally legislates on partnership arrangements. "We have promised that policyholders will not be financially disadvantaged," says Paul Bennett, PPP spokesman.

You can buy a long-term care policy by means of monthly premiums or a lump sum and PPP will then pay out an agreed level of benefits in the future if you are unable to care for yourself. For example, a 65-year-old man who wants to insure for annual benefits of

requires care would currently have to pay a monthly premium of £56.53 or a lump sum of £5,400. A woman of the same age would have to pay £65.77 or a lump sum of £7,891.

It is important to be aware, however, that these policies will pay out only if you are deemed to be unable to perform a number, usually three, "activities of daily living" (ADLs), such as being unable to move around from one room to another, to feed yourself or maintain a reasonable level of personal hygiene. They will not pay out simply because you or your family feel it appropriate for you to move into a care home if you do not meet these criteria.

Graham Hooper of Chase De Vere, independent financial adviser, feels the criteria can be too strict. He says: Once people have progressed to such a severe level of disability, they often do not have long to live anyway and these ADLs may not cover people with Alzheimer's. It will depend on what degree of the disease they are suffering.

Another option is to wait and see if you actually need care and then buy an "immediate needs" annuity. According to the Government's proposals this week, people who take out these products will have the same level of asset protection as everyone else. Commercial Union, for example, offers such a product called Continuing Care Plan.

The enhanced payments under these policies are not based on ADLs but are calculated on an assessment of each individual's state of health and life expectancy. Although they are not cheap they put a cap on potential outgoings.

For example, a man of 75 in "very poor" health would currently have to pay £48,500 in return for lifelong care payments of £10,000 per annum. The risk is that if you die shortly after entering care the remaining capital is lost to your estate.

☐ Further information can be obtained from Age Concern by sending a 9in x 6in SAE to Age Concern England's Informa-. tion & Policy Department, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

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3-term care

Nice ad, shame about the sales

The dazzling power of celebrity can, it seems, move any product but the Pep. Harry Enfield makes us say "yes" to Hula Hoops, while Helen Mirren seduces passengers to stretch out in spacious Virgin seats. But even the angust figure of Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, in its TV advertising campaign did not succeed in enticing investors into the

new M&G personal equity plan.
The development suggests a welcome change in Pep buying habits.
The Which? approach to Pep picking is beginning to replace the view that one Pep is much the same as another. Rather than being swayed by claims of double-digit returns, investors want detailed information about a fund management group's track rec-ord and its ability to outpace its peers in the future. This data is now readily allable, doubtless to the dismay of M&G and other underachieving



COVENE NEW ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

groups. As we report on page 31, M&G's latest Pep, a complex split-capital scheme, failed to impress because investors were suspicious. Those who ploughed through the small print guessed that M&G would find it hard to keep both the income and "zero" shareholders happy. Others had heard about, or experienced, the disappointing performance of M&G's two previous Pep offers. This was a victory for consumer power that any Chancellor, past or present.

would surely appland.

Action, not words

PETER LILLEY, the Social Security Secretary, has become the latest minister to talk tough to the life insurance industry, Westminster's latest favourite pastime. Last week Angela Knight, his Treasury colleague, rebuked Sir Andrew Large, the chief investment watchdog, for his failure to resolve the percent. his failure to resolve the personal

pension déhácle

now issued a threat to those insurers who have yet to compensate the 600,000 customers wrongly sold personal pensions. The culprits must start writing cheques now, or be excluded from the select list of those entitled to sell Basic Pension Plus, the proposed state pension substitute. Curiously it is not clear whether they will also be shut out from the lucrative market in long-care term poli-

cies, another Government proposal. Mr Lilley's criticism of the insurance companies is well deserved, but long overdue. Ministers could have spoken out about these abuses five years ago when the scandal first came to light. Instead it allowed the insurers to find one pretext after another to avoid their liabilities. Both



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Hazel Ward and son Matthew are pleased at the Alliance's change of heart but disappointed that individual members will still not receive shares **Excluded members** gain concession

Continued from page 33 to a charity or charities on their behalf, subject of course to the approval of the compa-

ny's shareholders." Charities and other campaigners cautiously welcomed the news. Ray Ward, a Weekend Money reader who has been campaigning on behalf of his son, Matthew, said: "It's good news. I'm glad they have moved. But are they going to give the money to the right people and how much will give?" He added that it was disappointing that indi-

shares. Matthew is a member of both the Alliance & Leicester and the Halifax and stands to lose out twice Age Concern also wanted more detail about the proposals. It said: "We would welcome this as a positive move but we would want it [the fund] to include the

vulnerable. People might not be

registered disabled but still

need protection."

vidual members would not get

Pam Hannam, honorary secretary of Bristol Mencap and an active campaigner, was more outspoken and accused the society of being "condescending". She said: "They are not doing justice to people. They are not treating

Leicester's announcement as a step in the right direction but said it would continue to press other societies to follow suit. So far they have shown no signs of doing so. In the Commons this week, Douglas French accused the Halifax of making a "fundamentally flawed" and "deeply offensive" judgment in excluding millions of members, including disabled people, from bonus

payouts. He continued: "If the Halifax continues to act like a

hard-nosed hank before it has

even become one and continues to spoil the good reput-

ation that building societies have enjoyed over so many years, I for one hope that its customers will decide in their millions to move their accounts elsewhere on the grounds that it is not a society in which they would continue

to hold their savings." them like anyone else and that is discrimination." But David Gilchrist, the Halifax's general manager, Mencap's head office acknowledged the Alliance & said: "We do believe our shareout is fair and 98 per cent of our members supported it at our special meeting which we believe indicates broad satisfaction. This was not a dominant issue at the SGM and we wouldn't wish to delay payouts

to our members."

The Halifax is refusing to

commit itself to putting discus-

sions on charitable donations

on the agenda of the board after it becomes a bank, al-

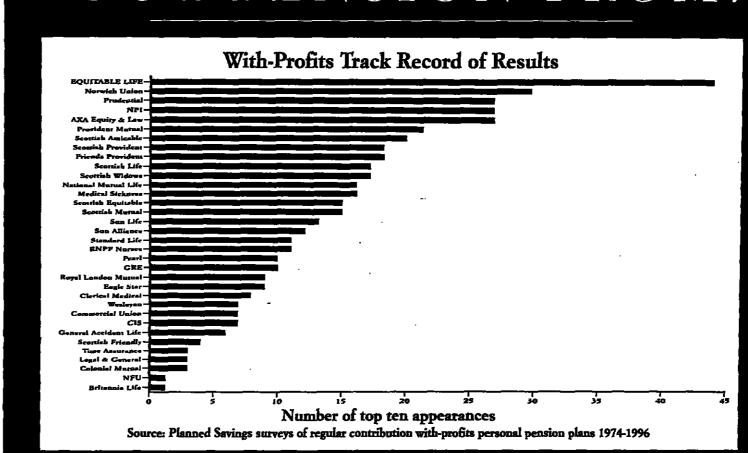
though it says it is not closed to the principle of charitable

donations. It argues that it

already gives significant

amounts to charity.

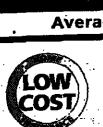
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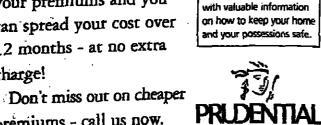
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Sara McConnell on a trust to protect your heirs



It is vital to use qualified lawyers to draw up a will outlining your exact wishes if you want to avoid an expensive day in court

The relative problem inherent in wills

hat do you do if you want to cut someone out of your will? How do you make sure someone you dislike or distrust does not get their hands on your hard-earned cash after you have gone? This may sound like a scene from a bad melodrama (lawyer reads out will to assembled company, excluded party gasps and falls down in dead faint), but according to Richard Bark-Jones, a solicitor and wills expert at the Law Society, requests for such wills are on the increase. He said: "Often it is the spouse of the son or daughter who is the target of mistrust." But solicitors do not always know how to write wills that will achieve the desired object, as one

Weekend Money reader found.

Mrs Wilson (not her real name) is concerned that her daughter, who is in her thirties but cannot work through disability, should have an income to live on when her parents die. The Wilsons want to arrange for the capital realised from their estate, including their home and various investments, to generate income for their daughter throughout her lifetime. They also want her to be able to draw capital if she needs a lump sum at any time.

But they do not want their son-in-law to have access to either the income or the capital. Mrs Wilson fears he would squander the money rather than "saving it for a rainy day". Attempts to have their

That do you do if you want to cut someone out of your will? How do you make sure someone you distrust does not get their solicitor around unhelpful.

solicitor proved unhelpful.

According to Mr Bark-Jones, the Wilsons, and anyone else wanting to direct their will specifically, should set up a life interest trust. In the Wilsons' case

this works as follows:

Mr and Mrs Wilson write wills leaving everything to each other. Whoever dies first leaves everything to the

Survivor.

On the death of the last survivor, the estate is left in trust to their daughter. She will have the sole right to the income from the capital from the estate invested on her behalf. Her husband will not have access to this income or to the capital.

The capital realised from the estate will be invested by up to four chosen executors, who are also responsible for paying income to the Wilsons' daughter. The executors can be chosen by the Wilsons and may include friends, relatives, the solicitor who set up the will, other professionally qualified people, such as accountants, and the Wilsons' daughter herself if she chooses.

The executors are responsible for investing wisely and making investment decisions. They may sub-contract such decisions to a stockbroker or other adviser although fees would be paid by the estate. The Wilsons can set up the trust specifically to give the executors powers to pay out lump sums from the capital as and when their daughter needs it. This would of course erode the capital avail-

able to be invested.

If the Wilsons' daughter and son in law divorce, he would have no right to any of the capital. Her income would be part of the divorce assessment, along

with his.

Solicitors' fees for setting up life interest trusts vary but will probably be about £150.

fficient executors are the key to making such a trust work. Mr Bark-Jones says. There is no guarantee that an estate will continue to generate income for life because this depends on calls on the capital as well as other imponderables such as stock market performance.

Another difficulty, which concerns Mrs Wilson, is that the high cost of long-stay care in a residential or nursing home could force the sale of the family home before the death of both the parents, and thus reduce the value of the estate. This is a real fear, given the present Government's determination to make people pay unless they have negligible assets or have taken out an expensive insurance policy.

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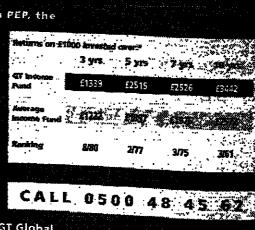
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Gavin Lumsden finds caution before the election

&G has failed miserably to interest investors in its new high income split-capital investment trust. This week the company revealed it had attracted only £20 million of new money into the fund, a fifth of its target and miles short of the £217 million it raised for its Equity Investment trust last year. This was in spite of an expensive TV marketing campaign fronted by Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancel-lor of the Exchequer.

The lukewarm response to the trust is highly embarrassing for M&G as income funds are the bread and butter of the Pep season. The main advantage of Peps for most people is the freedom from income tax that their money enjoys. Choosing an income fund — one that focuses on stocks that pay good dividends - has become a wellworn route for investors. Even if you do not require the income. you can watch it roll up in the tax-free environment.

Unfortunately for M&G. the 6.3 per cent annual income the fund offered was not enough to induce investors and their financial advisers to wade through the complicated marketing literature.

The company was also hampered by the fact that there are plenty of similar income trusts already. Besides, investors are more risk-averse than usual with the market at record highs and in the run-up to the general

Income funds divide into three groups: those based on unit trusts, investment trusts (such as M&G High Income) and corporate bond Peps.

Income unit trusts are a bit of a misnomer, however, yielding 4 to 5 per cent annual income but achieving good capital growth as well. Indeed many financial advisers reckon the combination of capital and income growth when put in the tax-free shelter of a Pep makes them the best buy around.

Peter Edwards of Premier Unit Trust Brokers in Bristol says: "By and large income funds have proved to be such good consistent producers of capital growth, that we use them for all our clients."

One of the most consistent is Jupiter Income which is currently beating all its peers over two, three and five years. According to the latest Premier survey of income unit trusts, this fund achieved a magnificent total return of 211 per cent in the five years to also useful when stock mar-January L Of this 119 per cent kets fall. In 1987 when share

Unwilling to gamble on trusts



A safer bet? Mr Mulligan wins the Cheltenham Gold Cup

came as income in the form of dividends with the rest in capital growth.

This kind of performance makes income funds ideal for the over-50s, says Mark Dampier of Churchill Investments. They can begin by reinvesting the income to get a good total return and then start to take the income later when they retire. This avoids any expensive switching between funds or potential capital gains tax problems." The focus on dividends is

prices colllapsed dividends dipped temporarily. Advisers focusing on capital growth can get stuck with fashionable and overpriced stocks."

does not mean income funds panies. BT, for instance, has not provided a great capital return but has grown the dividends by over 10 per cent a

year since it floated in 1984. William Littlewood, manager of Jupiter Income, looks for secure companies in markets that are hard for others to break into: London Clubs, the casino group, is a prime example.

However, his fund has trebled in size to £450 million since last year, raising fears that Mr Littlewood will find it difficult to maintain his performance record in future. Last October, Fund Research, the trust analysis group, downgraded from its top triple star rating to a double star. Mr Littlewood dismisses this, saying the growth in the fund only slightly increases the difficulty, which is more than compensated by Jupiter's stock picking approach.

ther worthy UK income unit trusts are GT Income, Lazard UK Income, Mercury Income, Perpetual Income. Framlington Monthly Income and Newton Income, Prolific High Income has established a good long-term record but slipped last year. It has also just lost its fund manager, Tim Gregory, to Gartmore, the rival investment house.

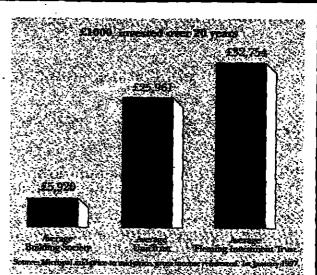
For income investors wanting international diversification Perpetual has just launched its World Income Pep. Investing in seven of the company's income, growth and fixed-interest funds the Pep aims to yield 4 per cent a year. The minimum lump sum investment in the Pep is £500 with a monthly savings scheme starting at £20.

Alternatively, investors who want no exposure to the UK at all can go for funds such as GT International Income. Although an overseas portfolio reduces the risk of one market falling, it does put you in danger of currency movements. The rise in sterling last year ended a string of good performances for the fund which was forced to cut its dividend by 20 per cent to just

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also like the investment discipline that income funds impose on fund managers. Mr Dampier says: "Generally income managers choose out-offavour stocks that will give them a sustainable and increasing dividend yield. This often means that they buy at the bottom and sell at the top. which is exactly what they are supposed to do, whereas funds

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WEEKEND MONEY SPECIAL REPORT ON PENSIONS Fears for the loss of higher-rate relief under Labour

Labour may be considering the removal of higher-rate pensions tax relief, we became concerned to make the best use of these concessions while they are

I contribute about 5 per cent of my salary into a company scheme, while my husband has a number of small pension plans but pays premiums intermittently. What is the maximum we can both contribute?

Lizzie H. London

Weekend Money replies: As a member of a company pension scheme, you can receive full tax relief on up to 15 per cent of your earnings paid

However, since April 1988, the amount you can put into a pension has been subject to an earnings cap; currently set at £82,000 per year. The only exception to this is if you hold an old-style retirement annuity contract. The other main restriction is that the total pension must not exceed two

thirds of final salary.

Provided these limits are met, you will not be taxed on your employer's contributions to the scheme or on the growth of your pension investment.

If your contribution is currently less than 15 per cent of your earnings, you can make up the difference by paying additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) into your employer's scheme or or by making free-standing additional contributions (FSAVCs) to a scheme operated by a life insurance

These benefits mean that you may be well advised to make

full 15 per cent of your salary. If you fail to contribute the full 15 per cent during the year, you cannot carry for-ward the unused relief. However, your husband can make

good his past failure to exploit the reliefs. If you do not use your maximum annual personal pension tax relief it can be carried forward for up to six years.

There are two types of personal pension, the personal pension plan and its pre-1988 antecedent, the retirement annuity contract.With both schemes you get tax relief on contributions at your highest rate, but there are differing scales of limits on the amounts that you can pay into the scheme every year.

These limits are worked out as percentages of "net relevant earnings" (income minus any allowable deductions such as expenses). In the case of personal pension plans, the maximum contributions start at 17.5 per cent of net relevant earnings for those below the age of 36.

Between the ages of 36 and 45 the figure is 20 per cent. and thereafter it increases by 5 per cent every five years up to 40 per cent for those above the age of 61

With retirement annuity contracts, the maximum contributions scale starts at 17.5 per cent for those under 51. Between 51 and 55 the figure is 20 per cent, between 56 and 60 it is 22.5 per cent. The top rate is 27.5 per cent for those over 6l. In the case of personal pension plans the ceiling of £82,200 on annual earnings that can be taken into account

NATHAN YATES

Wait at your peril

PUTTING off your pension planning is becoming an increasingly expensive business. according to Mark Bolland. technical manager of Chamberlain de Broe (Gavin Lumsden writes). He has calculated that people who wait until they are 50 to start a pension have to pay over four times the amount a 30-year old would, just to get a basic no-

For instance, a 30-year old

male on £30,000 salary wanting to retire at 60 will on today's annuity rates need to build up a fund of £205,000 by the year 2027. Assuming investment growth rates continue at an average annual rate of 4 per cent he will need to put aside £3,650, or 12 per cent of his income. If he waits until 40 to set up a basic plan his annual contributions will have to be £6,900. At 50 he would have to pay in £17,000.

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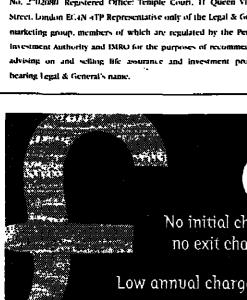
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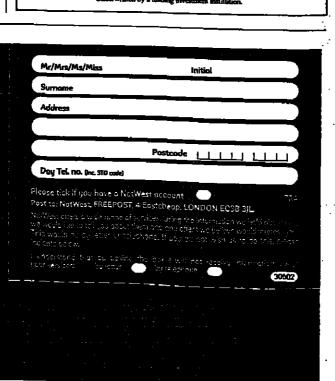
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Not much to retire on — just £16 a week

n 1989 insurance salesmen were buzzing like bees round a honeypot of potential customers. Deregulation of the pensions industry the previous year unleashed a selling frenzy as takers were sought for

THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 15 1997

TON PENSION

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insurance company personal pensions. Sam and Margaret Oakley, both in their late forties, signed up. Now, along with many others, they are angry at what they see as the poor income they expect to receive from their investment. The Oakleys invested £164.58 a month between the beginning of 1989 and the end of 1995. To date, the couple have contributed between them £11,800. Yet Norwich Union estimates that, on their present contribution record, if no more contributions are made Mrs Oakley would receive a minimum of £16 per week on retirement and Mr Oakley a minimum of

£32 a week when he retires five years later. Mrs Oakley said: "We would have been better off putting the money in the bank." Norwich Union said the low monthly contributions combined with the decision to stop paying less than halfway through the

expected term until they retired meant charges had eaten into their investment. Norwich Union is by no means one of the. highest charging insurance companies. Last month Money Management, the specialist magazine, said NU had below average charges and above average performance. But personal pensions are not designed for

Sara McConnell

on the case of a

personal pension

that did not fulfil the clients' needs

some cases, almost all the contributions in the early years can be lost in charges. The Government's radical pension

reforms, announced last week, assume a key role for personal pensions sold by insurance companies. But many people taking out compulsory personal pensions in which their state pension contributions can be invested, will have paid-in only the minimum. The Government says pensions will become cheaper because they will be compulsory. Pension providers will come from a list approved by regu-lators. But this has not reassured those who point to the regulators' failure to force companies to compensate hundreds of thousands of people who were wrongly

advised to leave company schemes and buy personal pensions in the late 1980s. Margaret Oakley was 47 in 1989 and

had no pension. She recalled: "There was a flurry of salesmen coming into the office offering us opting-out, topping-up and everything. We saw two or three people a day." She sought advice from the company's accountant, who advised a Norwich Union plan for her and her husband. But by the end of 1995, the Oakleys had become disenchanted with the plan's performance and stopped their contributions. Norwich Union responded to Mrs Oakley's complaints by telling her that any problems were the responsibility of the adviser who sold her

Mrs Oakley says Norwich Union should have scrutinised pension applications when they were first received and urged potential customers making small contributions to invest elsewhere. NU says it accepts applications without question because it assumes

salesmen would have given the right advice. The devastating effect of pension charges combined with stopping a plan early is shown by figures from Bacon & Woodrow, the actuary. According to its figures, if no charges had been levied the Oakleys could have expected an £18,056 fund in 1995, rolling up to £55,355 if they had contributed for the full 20 years to a competitor's policy. A plan which spread the charges across the policy would have produced \$15,828 after six-and-a-half years and £42,371 after 20 years. A plan taking charges in early years

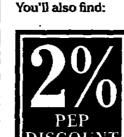
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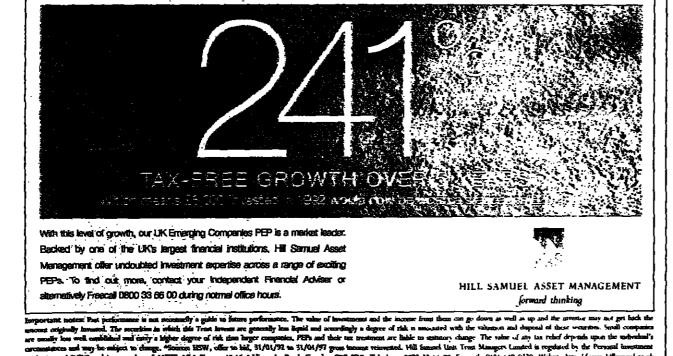
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three times mortgages

Sara McConnell

says the young still cannot rely

on the State

for a comfortable retirement

ising generations of teenagers and young workers may face an impoverished retirement if they rely solely on their state pension, despite the prospect of better basic pensions being held out by the Government

Figures calculated exclusively for The Times show that a 25-year-old on average earnings will have to save £1,800 a year out of taxed income on top of compulsory contributions to the proposed state scheme in order to retire on a pension of two thirds of final salary at 65. Higher earners who delay topping up pensions until they reach 3S will have to set aside £7,200 a year. Peter Lilley, Social Security

Secretary, has announced rad-

WEEKEND MONEY SPECIAL REPORT ON PENSIONS

Pensions could cost

Lean outlook: young workers, such as the cast of Hollyoaks, will have to save huge sums

ical changes to state pensions. Central to his plans is that the next generation's state pension contributions will be invested in private pension plans run insurance companies.

which could mean larger basic

The Department of Social Security claimed that individuals on average earnings with a full work record could expect a pension of at least £175 a week at today's prices from the proposed Basic Pension Plus. But, according to William Mercer, the actuary, a 25-yearold on average earnings of £18,000 will have to put £150 a month into his pension on top of what the State invests for

him to ensure a good pension. A 35-year-old earning the national average who has not previously made extra contributions will have to pay in £225 a month. At higher earnings of £36,000, a 25-year-old would have to contribute \$420 a month, while a 36-year-old would have to contribute as much as £600. This is nearly three times the £265 monthly cost of repayments on an average £40,000 mortgage, says

the Halifax Building Society. All contributions will have to be made from taxed income. In an attempt to help cashflow

own for a decent pension. The figures also assume that pension investments will grow at 4.25 per cent a year excluding inflation, the growth assumption made by the Government Actuary in calculating the possible payout from an invested state pension. But as thousands of dissatisfied personal pension holders know to their cost, growth projections are little more than an educated actuarial guess.

The actual return depends on unknowables such as interest rates, inflation and government policy, as well as the insurance company's own skill in investing the contributions. The return also depends on the level of charges extracted by the insurance company for managing the funds. Personal pensions have been heavily criticised for levying excessive charges, which include large commission payments to salesmen. Charges directly reduce the growth rate.

The Government has refused to reveal its assumptions about the level of charges on personal pen-sions under Basic Pension Plus. It argues that, as pensional pensions will be compositive and provided only by companbe forced down. According to William Mercer, the Governfrom pension investments b

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"M&G says that it will accept bonus shares from building societies converting to banks into its it's possible that not all PEP managers will accept shares into plans."

Investors Chronicle 24th January 1997

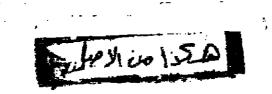
*The estimated gross redemption yield on The M&G Corporate Bond PEP as at 28th February 1997 was 6-6% and the estimated gross distribution yield

Notes, Income figures refer to gross income. M&G Corporate Bond PEP capital figures are offer to bid. The **Building Society income figures are** based on the average Share Account rate (source: CSO - Financial Statistics). Sector performance source: Micropal.

The M&G Corporate Bond PEP

ment has calculated that charges will cut the return about 0.8 per cent a year. But Tim Keogh of William Mercer says the most expensive pensions reduce the return by more than I per cent. The Government also appears not to have catered for the additional cost of buying stock market investments with pension contributions, normally 5 per cent, says Mr Keogh. WITH-PROFITS BOND A worry-free investment offering the best of both worlds. Security and Potential Capital Growth if that sounds like your dream come true, then The Equitable With £500 you can invest in a managed fund of assets, which What is more, we guarantee that, whatever future market www.equicable.co.uk Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products





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THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 15 1997

Karen Zagor explains how to get the best price for society shares

Just pick up the phone

millions of lucky savers whose building society is being taken over or converted to a bank, you stand to make a nice profit. For example, members of National & Provincial. who received shares in Abbey National when it was taken over by the bank, have seen the share price soar from 567p

to 775p.

But the only way to realise these profits is to sell the shares. You will increase your profits if you shop around for the least expensive execution-only share dealing service. They are geared to the small investor and tend not to provide the advice offered by more expensive brokers.

Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, an independent adviser, said: "With executiononly you need to be 100 per cent sure you know what you are doing. When you pick up the phone you need to be very clear about how many shares you have, when you want to sell and how you want the money sent to you. You can't do it without the stock certificate to hand."

Here Weekend Money gives a selection of the best share dealing offers.

■ Abbey National has a share dealing service available to anyone over 18. You can use it to buy or sell shares in any company quoted on the London Stock Exchange. Charges start at 1.65 per cent for the first £2.500 of shares, with a minimum of £24.50. The next £2,500 is charged at 1.25 per cent of value, falling to 0.15 per cent for additional amounts over £5,000. For family or multiple sales there is a £6 charge per extra certificate.

The bank offers a less expensive, and more limited dealing service by post. Charges start at 0.75 per cent for the first £5,000 with a minimum charge of £17.50, but you can only trade in 12 shares plus



Good old days: today's execution-only telephone services are a far cry from 30 years ago

functions like a nominee ac-

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You can keep cash in the account, which earns interest, un-

til you are ready to invest and

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ShareLink does all the paper-

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ShareLink also has a Fre-

quent Traders Club which has

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charges of £6. You then pay

only £16.50 per transaction, no

matter how large the deal.

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electricity and power com-panies. Abbey National Share Dealing Services 0121 233 2333.

■ Barclays Bank offers a more extensive execution-only dealing service called Share Deal. You can register free, and once registered you can get opinions and prices on more than 250 shares. The telephone service will tell you whether brokers are advising people to buy, sell or hold and why, as well as explaining any dramatic share price movement. Calls are charged at a higher rate. You can pay for transactions by cheque or direct debit. The charges are I.5 per cent for the first £5,000, 0.85 per cent for the next £10,000 and 0.5 per cent

those in the privatised water, service charges a flat rate of 1 per cent with a £10 minimum. Register at any Barclays branch or on 0345 776776.

> ■ ShareLink, an executiononly broker has a range of services. New customers can usually deal on their first call and the service is open seven days a week, with late hours from Monday to Thursday. For those who trade infrequently, ShareLink Plus handles occasional transations with charges of 1.5 per cent for the first £2,500, falling to 0.75 per cent for the next £1,666. with a £20 minimum.

Investors who plan to trade a bit more often can open a Market Master account which charges 1 per cent for the first £2,500. followed by 0.75 per cent for the next £2,500 and 0.1 per cent for the next £6,250 with a £10 minimum. This

This account also gives investors access to information. financial news and a newsletter written by investment ex-perts. In addition, ShareLink has a postal dealing service and an Internet dealing service. For more information ring: 0121 200 7788.

DE ON LAND

City Deal, another execution-only specialist, has four services. Its most basic telephone service has a minimum commission of E9 for deals up to £500, rising to £10 for deals up to £1,000 and £17.50 for deals up to £2,000. Maximum commission is £40. Before making a deal. City Deal needs to have the money to hand, either though a debit card, cheque or through a spe-cial account set up for trading. City Deal's next account, Phone Trade Gold, charges minimum commission of £15 for deals up to £1,000, rising to E20 for deals up to E2,000, and £27.50 for amounts up to £30,000. There is also a onetime registration fee of £10 for both accounts. If you open a linked trading account, you only have to pay 25 per cent of the share purchase price up front. 01708 738688.

Cater Deal Direct account has an annual fee of £18 plus VAT. Commission starts at £9 for dealts up to £500, rising to £10 for deals of up to £1,000 and £20 for deals up to £2,000. When trading, you speak directly to a dealer instead of a telephone operator, which should give you access to better prices. City Deal also has a less expensive postal service. For more information ring: 01708 742288.

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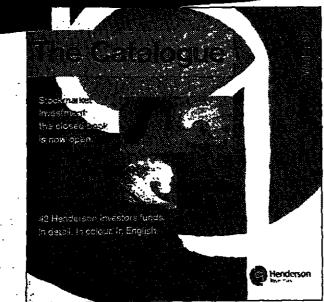
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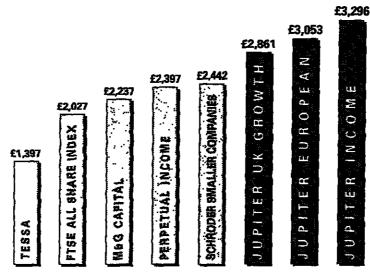
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However there is one thing you should not overlook in the rush and that is performance. It is the key factor in how much your investment will be worth in the long term.

As you can see from the table opposite, Jupiter's three largest PEP funds have outperformed the best fully PEPable unit trusts of some well-known groups.

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Why pay £1,600 too much for a £5,000 car?

bank balances have had a hard winter. Those seeking extra cash face a bewildering range of loans, and finding the best deal can be a problem.

Suppose the au pair's car is about to give up the ghost after years of abuse by a succession of young drivers or a burst of sunshine and dalfodils turns one's thoughts to some wind in the hair driving. The cost of a sound second or third car could be as much as £5,000, and lenders will be queueing up to offer a sum of this size. You may be tempted to borrow from the nearest bank or building society, but this option can be costly.

Call Clydesdale Bank and it will offer you an unsecured loan for a punishing £1,810 over three years. Pick a building society and you could pay £1,612.84 in interest at the Halifax, though there are better deals available to existing customers. At the very luckiest you could approach Midland Bank who would charge you El.149.52. And if you want to insure your loan, expect to pay up to £2,197.48 at NarWest. What the borrower really needs to know is which are the cheapest deals in the whole moneylending market?

A survey by The Times shows that good loans can come in surprising guises. The cheapest way to borrow £5,000 over three years is via a secured personal loan from Clydesdale Bank. The monthly repayment on a loan here would be £154.96, and the total interest paid is just £578.45.

Clydesdale's offer is very attractive if you are positive a mishap, borrowers must beware. Loans of this type are usually secured on your house, so if you default, your home could be in jeopardy. The conventional wisdom is

that borrowing large sums on a credit card is for the feckless only. But in fact, if you don't want a secured loan, Co-operative Bank's Advantage card is the cheapest option. A £5,000 debt costs only £832 after three years if regular repayments are made. And Advantage borrowers also benefit from the flexibility and convenience a credit card offers.

Cheap borrowing deals available to gold card and gold chargecard holders is a similar case but to get either form of plastic you have to be a medium to high earner.

owever, if your salary is more than £20,000 a year and you still want to borrow £5,000, Cooperative Bank's base ratelinked card will keen the cost to 5835.96 at today's rates. The Bank of Scotland's Premier Visa charge card overdraft facility would also keep interest charges at 8.8 per cent APR provided you earn more than £25,000 per year, though a borrowing period of three years would be unusual.

If your earnings are below gold levels, a more povertyfriendly way of borrowing cheaply is through a credit union. The maximum a registered credit union is allowed to charge is 12.68 per cent APR. and in many cases the rate is lower. Some charge no interest at all at certain times of year.

Even at the maximum rate, a £5,000 loan from a credit

over three years. But only those eligible for credit union membership can get this kind of loan. To be a member, you must be part of a registered collective body such as a church, a workplace or a residential area. You can check if you are eligible by ringing the Association of British Credit Unions on 0161-832-3694.

Unsecured personal loans would usually be a recommended option for a mediumterm, medium-sized debt, so it may come as a surprise that this form of borrowing is the most expensive in The Times survey. But a loan of this kind presents some advantages.

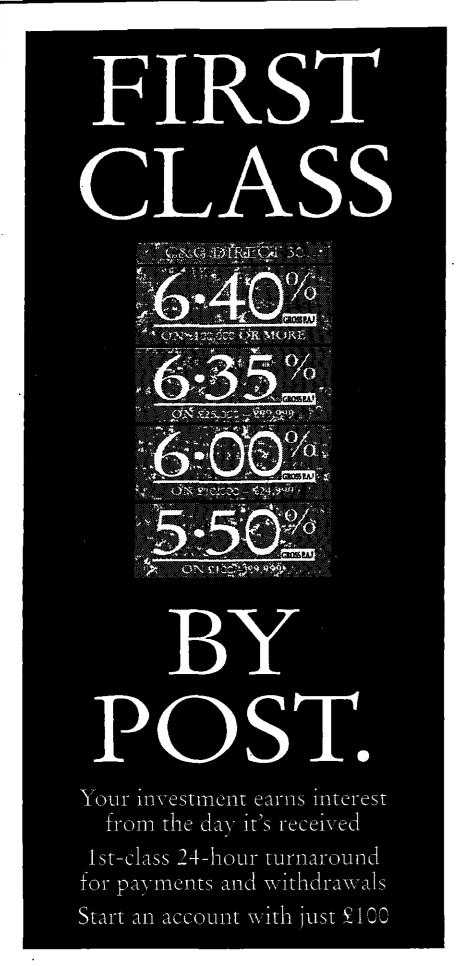
The repayments are fixed

from the moment you sign an agreement, so you can budget ahead with full knowledge of what and when you will pay. Also, there is no chance of a damaging rise in interest rates, whereas other borrowing methods such as credit cards suffer fluctuations. The cheapest unsecured

Direct's, A £5,000 loan would cost £995,99 over three years. If you want to insure your unsecured loan, the price will be considerably greater. With insurance, the best deal is Northern Rock's, at £1,759.36.

hatever loan choose, read the small print thoroughly before signing. Watch for pitfalls such as charges for early repayment. Before you take on debt, always use all other resources. However cheap the deal, you will pay a higher rate of interest for credit than you will earn on savings. Keep borrowing for truly rainy days...

LOAN TYPE	BEST DEAL	APR	MONTHLY PAYMENT	TOTAL COS
Unsecured personal loan (uninsured)	Lombard Direct	12.9%	£166.53	£5,995.99
Unsecured personal loan (insured)	Northern Rock	12.9%	£187.76	26,759.36
Secured personal loan	Clydesdale	7.8%	£154.96	£5,578.45
Credit Union	n/a	12.68%	£166.07	£5,978.37
Credit Card	Cooperative Advantage	7.9% to 31.03, then 10.9%	£160	£5,832
Gold Card	. Cooperative Base (rate linked)	10.5%	£162.11	25,835,96
Gold charge card overdraft	Bank of Scotland	8.8%	n/a .	n/a
Loan secured on insurance	Standard Life	8.4%	£157.11	25,655.99



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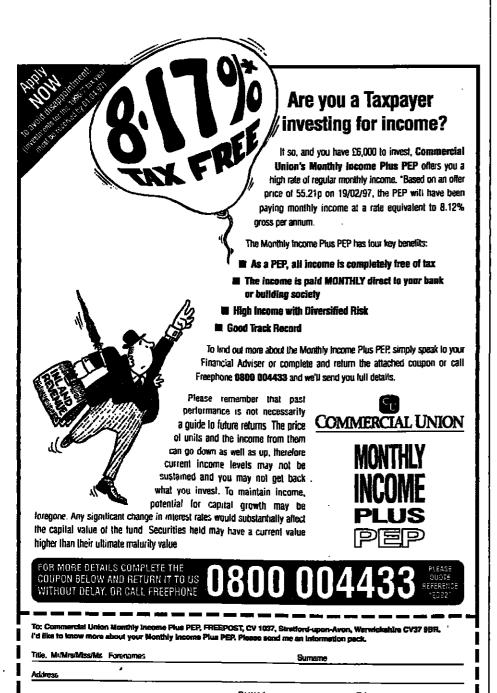


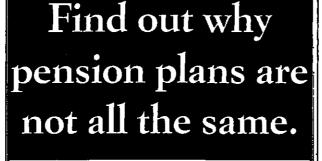
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Cheltenham & Gloucester plc Barnett Way Gloucester GL4 3RL tNet equivalent p.1. on £100,000 or more = 5,12%; £25,000 - £99,999 = 5,08%; £10,000 - £24,999 = 4,80%; £100 - £9,999 = 4,40%. Current gross monthly rates available on C&G Direct 30 are:

100,000 or more = 6.22%; £25,000 - £99,999 = 5.17%; £10,000 - £24,999 = 5.84%; £5,000 - £99,999 = 5.37%. Rates are variable. We can pay inverest gross to non-taxpayers who are ordinarily resident in the UK for tax purposes, subject to the required certification. Otherwise income tax is deducted at the lower rate, currently 20%. Where the sum deducted is more than your tax liability you can apply to the Inland Revenue for a tax repayment. Withdrawals can be made by cheque or by transfer of funds to another C&G account. C&G Direct 30 can be operated only by post using our C&G By Post service. To help us maintain our service standards, we may record or monitor telephone calls.





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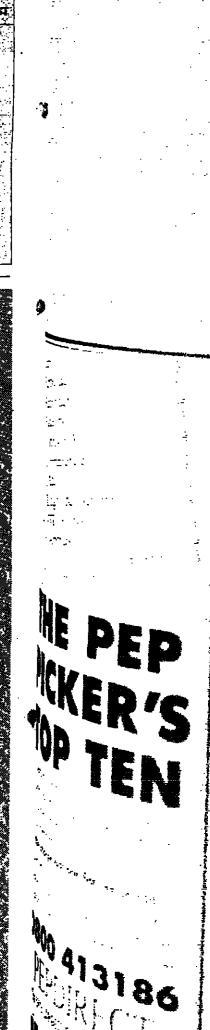
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sets about finding the best rates for borrowing on your credit card



Prince Nascem: big spender

Featherweight champ is heavyweight spender

A major weapon in the battle for customers now being waged by the charge and credit card companies is the reward scheme where cardholders receive points or goods for purchases made (see below). The value of these schemes is hotly debated. This week, for example. People's Bank, one of the US card players now attacking the UK market, argued that people preferred lower interest rates. Ron Urquhart, People's Bank UK managing director, claimed: "Barclaycard holders would need to spend £9,000 over two years and pay £269.20 in interest charges to gain a

cordless kettle worth at most E40."

But American Express continues to believe that, for its customers, especially the favoured few with platinum cards, points are irresistible. Among its platinum card big spenders is Prince Naseem Harned, WBO and IBF world featherweight champion who holds more than 100,000 American Express reward points in his gloved hands after spending £100,000 on

clothes during a recent two-day spree in New York. The reward points the boxer has accumulated means he can further indulge his taste in haute couture - and for free. For 65,000 points he can fly to Milan, with Continental Airways. Under the Amex reward scheme, every £1 charged to the card equates to one membership rewards point.

Edwin Buckhalter, 48, chairman of Severn House Publishers, in Sutton, has held a Platinum Card for 18 months and believes that the rewards scheme and the service make it well worth paying the £375 a year fee for the card. As he travels for three or four months a year, the reward points accumulated are all spent on business flights around the world with Swissair. "It's cliched, but points really do make prizes," he says of the rewards scheme which has meant he is holding on to approximately a quarter of a million unspent miles.

LIZANNE ROSE

Cashback offered as competition grows

ompetition is growing fiercer in the formerly sedate credit card world where once Barclaycard reigned unchallenged. The last year has seen the launch of more than 100 cards, most with rates well below the 20.3 per cent still charged by Barclaycard and the other traditional players in this £48 billion market.

The aim is to grab the free-spending but creditworthy customer who makes frequent use of his plastic but is seldom in a position to repay the full bal-ance each month. Special lowrate deals are often available to those transferring a debt from.

another card company.

This week the Alliance & Leicester celebrated its last few weeks as a building society with the launch of its own card, offering cashbacks for money spent. Holders will pay an annual percentage rate (APR or true rate) of 17.9 per cent for purchases and 12.9 er cent for amounts trans-

ferred from other cards. Later this month the Nationwide, which is determined to remain a building society, also plans to offer a card, with an APR of 16.9 per cent and a transfer rate of 9.9 per cent. Both cards undercut Bardaydivisions of the big banks but are still less competitive than the UK arms of the American card operators, such as RBS Advanta and People's Bank of Connecticut. However, the Alliance & Leicester does have a fresh gimmick - the cashback. This is a new variation on the reward schemes attached to other cards where customers get air miles and

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8. Legal & General

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shopping discounts. During 1997, Alliance & Leicester cardholders will receive 1 per cent of all purchases up to £3,000 and 2 per cent on all purchases above this figure. This means that if you spend £6.800 with your card you will get a £106 cheque next January. The normal cashback rates will be 0.5 per cent on purchases up to £3,000 and 1

per cent thereafter. Those contemplating switching to the A&L card or one of the other new cards can make substantial savings, as a

Times survey shows.
A £5,000 debt with Barclaycard would currently attract 22.3 per cent APR after the 56day interest-free period ends. Over six months, the cost would mount to £483.

But transfer your debt to the People's Bank where a transfer rate of 14.4 per cent APR applies and this figure would be reduced by £144 to £339. Better still, move it to RBS Advanta's Visa card (transfer rate 9.9 per cent) or to MBNA (transfer rate 9.9 per cent cent) and it would shrink to £241.80.

Move it to the new Alliance & Leicester card and the special transfer rate of i1.9 per cent APR plus the cashback of 2 per cent would save you pay less than half the original charge. On a smaller debt the interest costs are less damaging, but even if you owe just £2,000 it is still possible to make significant savings; £2,000 over six months at Barclaycard would cost

By transferring the balance, this can be reduced by up to £97.20 on the Money Back card. And switching your balance would cost nothing because there is no annual fee. Sometimes the transaction can even be made over the

Despite the advantages of the new deals, traditional UK cards are currently holding their own in the market. The latest figures show that 62 per cent of cards in issue in Britain are from Barclays, NatWest or Midland banks, all of which offer rates higher than the best performers.

ne reason for this sales anomaly may be that customers do not trust the cheap cards, and in some cases there are potential pitfalls. Though Co-operative Bank is offering a rate of just 7.9 per cent APR until March 31, it has no interest-free period, so borrowers who pay off their debts on time would be better off steering clear.

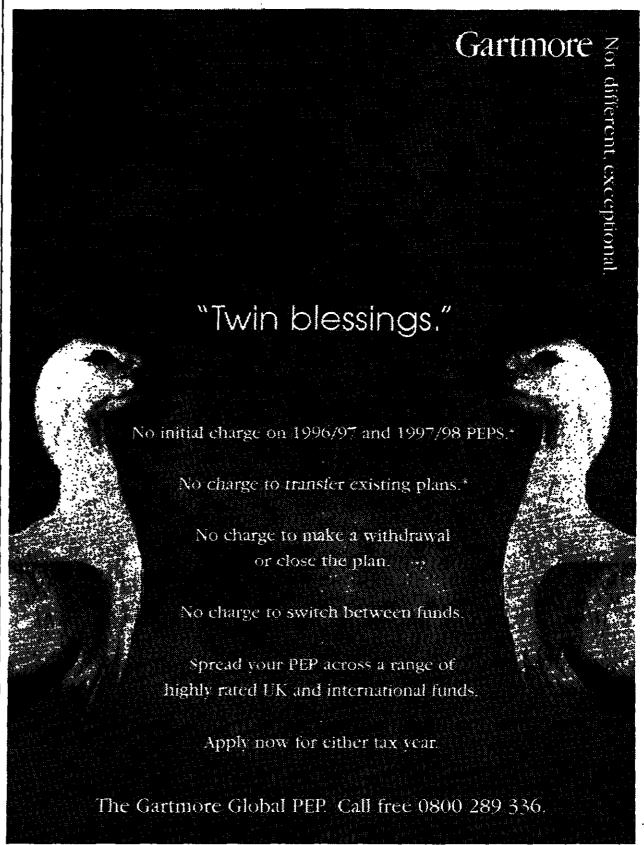
Also, traditional UK card

merely ways of luring customers into paying more later. Socalled "teaser" rates usually last for six months, and afterwards cardholders can be hit by a sudden rise. MBNA's benign 9.9 per cent changes into a much less favourable 18.9 per cent once the boney-

moon period is over. But MBNA's standard rate is still better than Barclaycard's, and some of the cheap deals manage to stay attractive well beyond the short

Though RBS Advanta's teaser 9.9 per cent APR offer ends on January I, next year, the standard rate of 15.9 per cent is still one of the lowest on the market. The Robert Fleming Save &

Prosper Base Rate Linked card will not budge from 11.5 per cent APR until the base rate itself changes, and the People's Bank of Connecticut's 14.4 per cent is equally companies can claim that



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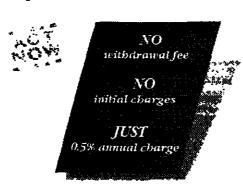
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£25,000 +	6.55%	6.36%	6.55%
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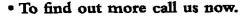
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framlington

Splash out abroad with . Pek Quo a clear conscience It is time to take advantage of

advantage of currency gains

while they last

The current strength of the pound against other currencies has hurt some exporters and their investors. British Steel and ICI are among popular shares that have suffered because of sterling's rise. It's time for some payback.

An Easter holiday abroad is a fine way of exact ing retribution. For once. British tourists are on the winning side of the flux in international currency mar kets. As you lie back on the poolside sun lounger, it will make you feel almost German (a 1980s German, not from their feel-bad 1990s).

Take France. At the end of Wednesday's currency trading. £1.000 would have got you Fr8,970 before com mission, on Bardays figures. At the same time last year, you would have received Fr7.500. That's 20 per cent more, or the equivalent of an extra £200 to blow a welcome relief to many hitherto unable to aff ord drinks in Parisian boulevard cafés. As France is among the countries expected to be at the core of economic and monetary union in Europe, its inflation policy is tough enough to ensure these exchange-rate gains have not been undermined by price rises. Inflation is now about 1.8 per cent.

The improvement is even more marked in Spain. Last year £1,000 would have bought 184,000 pesetas. Earlier this week it would have got 226,000 pesetas, a 23 per cent rise, or an extra £230 in your pocket. Again. increases in consumer prices will not have had much effect. Prices have been rising by less than 4 per cent in 1996. January's inflation figure was set at 2.8 per cent provisionally, as the Spanish hover on the sidelines of the first wave of European currency

Germany offers a 21 per cent better deal than in 1996. Last year £1,000 would have eot you DM2,210. It now gets DM2,680, a DM470 rise. though it has been creeping up a bit recently to 1.7 per cent in January.

Last week £1.000 would have bought 2,677,000 Italian lire. This compares with L2,331.000 in the same week cent. Price rises will have takbenefits. But although Italy is unlikely to join the single currency in 1999, it is keen to



Now even the British can afford to buy the overpriced drinks in Parisian boulevard cafe:

make a race of it and streamline its economy to fit the qualifying require-2.6 per cent, according to the latest EU figures.

The US does not look so appealing, since sterling fell from a high of \$1.71 at the end of 1996. Last week you would have got \$1,572 for your £1,000, only \$81 over the

same time last year. You've endured a lot to beef up the pound overseas: the least you can do now is

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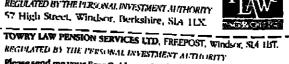
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s the property market slowly improves, those anxious to be rid of homes that have become mill-

stones round their necks should beware

the pitfalls of the buying and selling

game. As one London reader of The

Times discovered, failing to get accurate

quotes from solicitors and estate agents

solicitor's bill for £5,500," said the 75-year

old, who had recently sold the flat she

had lived in for years to buy a smaller

one. The sale and buying were quite straightforward. I sold my flat to the

downstairs neighbour directly, so I did

not have to pay estate agent's fees, but the

solicitor helped to negotiate the sale. I

chose a solicitor with a good address.

who was recommended by a friend so I

trusted him. In retrospect, I should have

had been involved, I think it might have

been different. I think some lawyers look

at an older woman on her own as ripe for the plucking. We met the lawyer twice,

and there were some telephone calls, but the sale was quite straightforward. To

justify his charges, the solicitor made his services sound very complicated. My son recently sold his flat and bought another

using a local firm of solicitors, and was

charged only £800."

As the reader discovered to her cost.

when it comes to any business transac-

tion, trust is not worth much on its own.

While it is important to choose a reput-

Her daughter is less stoical. "If a man

asked how much it would cost."

"I was shocked when I received a

can be a costly business.

THE PARTY OF

Karen Zagor counts the cost of moving home

Seek quotes before you start to pack

THE COST OF MOVING SALE OF A \$100,000 PROPERTY Estate agent £2,009 Solicitor £401 Total £2,410 AVERAGE MOVING COSTS London (value 278,800): excluding ramoval fees SALE OF A \$200,000 PROPERTY tate agent 23,859 Solicitor 2549 Total 24,408 ERAGE MOVING COSTS England (Value £51,300) excluding removal tees BUYING A £100,000 PROPERTY 21,500 Solicitor £421 and registry £200 Searches £86 REMOVAL FEES depends on the area) Expect top pay room ground floor flat £164 approx room detached house BUYING A 2200,000 PROPERTY Total £3,361 £443 врргох

able solicitor, and agent. it is also important to get reliable quotes. The solicitor's fee alone on the sale of a £200,000 property should not come to much more than £600, and should be much less for the sale of a cheaper property.

The good news is that the cost of moving has fallen in the past ten years. Michael Dawson, a partner in Dawson, Mason and Carr, a specialist conveyancer, said: "Costs have come down fairly dramatically over the past ten years. Solicitors are charging less than they were as a proportion of the price of the property, so are estate agents and even the Land Registry has cut its charges. The whole system is becoming more efficient."

o what should you expect to pay when you sell one property and buy another? First, there is the estate agency fee, paid by the home seller. This, on average, will cost 2 per cent of the house price for sole agency. If you take the multi-agency approach, giving the property to a number of estate agents. you can expect a fee of about 2.8 per cent. In most cases, the estate agency's fee will be the single biggest item.

If you are selling, but not buying another property, then you will only have to pay solicitor's fees on top of the estate agent's charge. But if you are buying another property, you will also face stamp duty, which runs at 1 per cent of the purchase price, plus Land Registry charges, other searches and a home purchase report. And there will be a

second batch of solicitor's fees, the Land Registry and other searches.

According to the Woolwich Building Society's cost of moving survey, the sale of a £100,000 property will, on average, incur charges of £2,410, of which £2,009 will be for the estate agent and £401 will be for the solicitor. To sell a property valued at £200,000, you can expect solicitor's fees of £549, with sole agency estate agent fees of £3,859 making £4,408.

Buying is more complicated but cheaper. For a £100,000 property, you can expect £421, solicitor's fees, £200 Land Registry charges, £86 searches, £1,000 stamp duty and £330 for a home purchase

report, making £2,037.

To buy a £200,000 property, expect total charges of £3,361. On average, moving costs in London are higher than elsewhere in the country. The Woolwich survey found it cost £3,500, excluding removal fees, to move to an average priced property of £78,800, against £1,500 to move to an average priced £51,300 property in the North.

P emoval fees are also higher in London than elsewhere. These will vary, depending on which part of the country you live in, the size of your home, how easy the access is to your home and how far you are moving the contents. You can expect to pay about £164 to move the contents of a onebedroom ground floor flat. Moving the contents of a five-bedroom detached house will cost about £443.

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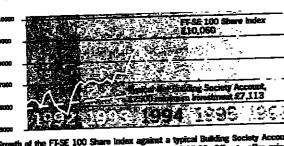
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The information reflects our understanding of current legislation and tax regulations which are both subject to change.

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

First-named hold the shares of others in trust

From Mr Keith Davies and Mr William Taylor Sir. We cannot understand what all the fuss is about concerning the question of whose name is first on a

building society account. If, as is often stated, many are the wardens of old people's homes (or similar institutions) they normally stand in a fiduciary relationship with the second-named person.

Whether that relationship is trust or an agency makes no difference to the fact that the first-named may not make a profit at the expense of the econd-named.

(though it might be seen to be politically advantageous) for a new Act of Parliament to be passed. The situation is quite clear. Although the first named may be the new recipient of the new shares, such shares are held in trust for the

true owner. Accordingly, they must be passed to that person, or held to his (or her) account if he or she is unfit to administer their own affairs.

Yours faithfully. KEITH DAVIES WILLIAM TAYLOR. 4 Charlton Road. Wantage, Oxfordshire.

It is quite unnecessary

More credit than is due

From Mr J.L. Evans I was intrigued by your article (When the credit card won't do nicely, February 15) where you criticise credit-card companies setting limits on out of date income levels.

Permit me to point out that this practice also operates in the opposite direction to the

one you experienced. Like you, I have held credit cards for many years. I retired over 9 years ago, and yet credit card companies continue to review my accounts and increase my limits from time to time. In common with almost

Faster than the

Sir, Although the Inland Reve-

nue's computer errors (IR may

be charging a day too far,

Weekend Money, March 1)

are costing some people

money - and what commer-

cial sense does it make to send

someone a bill for 76p -) they

can work both ways. I paid the tax due on January 31 by bank

giro credit on January 27 and

my statement of account

showed the date of receipt as

January 24! Harmless, but not

confidence-inspiring.

St Nicholas Avenue.

Great Bookham.

Yours faithfully.

A. DAVIES.

Sherwood.

speed of light

From Mr A.R. Davies

to give my date of birth on the original application forms. would suggest that there are far more people in my position than in yours. Yours faithfully. J. EVANS. 10 Marten Road,

all employees, my annual

income dropped significantly

on retirement. Despite this the

credit card companies contin-

ue as if I were still working.

There seems to be no good reason for this, because with-

out exception, I was required

Fairer deal plea over mis-selling

Folkestone,

From Mr H. Cartwright Sir, Legal & General offers to guarantee victims of mis-sold pensions the amount they would have received had they stayed in their company scheme as a way of cutting delays over compensation.

Surely any guarantees should be based on the projections or promises that conthe employees to vinced change. Does it occur to the Treasury that if employees were only offered the same as before, the chances are that they would have opted out of their employer's scheme?

Yours faithfully, HUGH CARTWRIGHT, 22 Shrewsbury Mews, Chepstow Road, W2.

■ Letters to Weekend Money are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice or statements given

in these columns and it must be emphasised that professional advice should always be sought over investments. Letters to Weekend Money can be faxed on 0171-782 5082.

Charity's nice little earner at Lloyds Bank

From Mr R. Breckman Sir, After my recent letters being published concerning the inadequacies of Lloyds Bank, the computer details relating to my account now have the note: "Complains direct to chairman. Be careful".

This has made no difference, however, since they

standing order. The usual apologies, corrections etc. One consolation is that the charity to which I ask for compensation cheques to be paid is receiving a regular source of income. Yours faithfully. ROBERT BRECKMAN.

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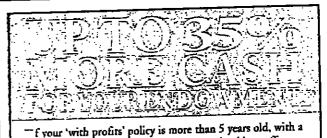
Breckman & Company Chartered Accountants, 49 South Molton Street, WI. have just failed to pay a



Pensions and divorce

From Mrs S. M. Bernard Sir, I wonder how many ministers are aware that before the happy ideal of splitting pensions on divorce can be realised, a further change to the pension rules will be necessary: namely, the removal of the rule which currently

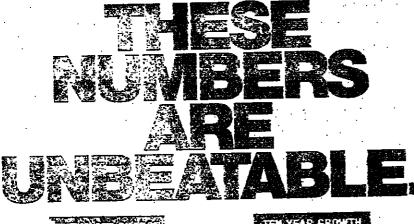
forbids a non-earning spouse (usually a wife) from purchasing a personal pension. Yours faithfully. SUSAN BARNARD. 4 Egerton Drive. Altrincham,



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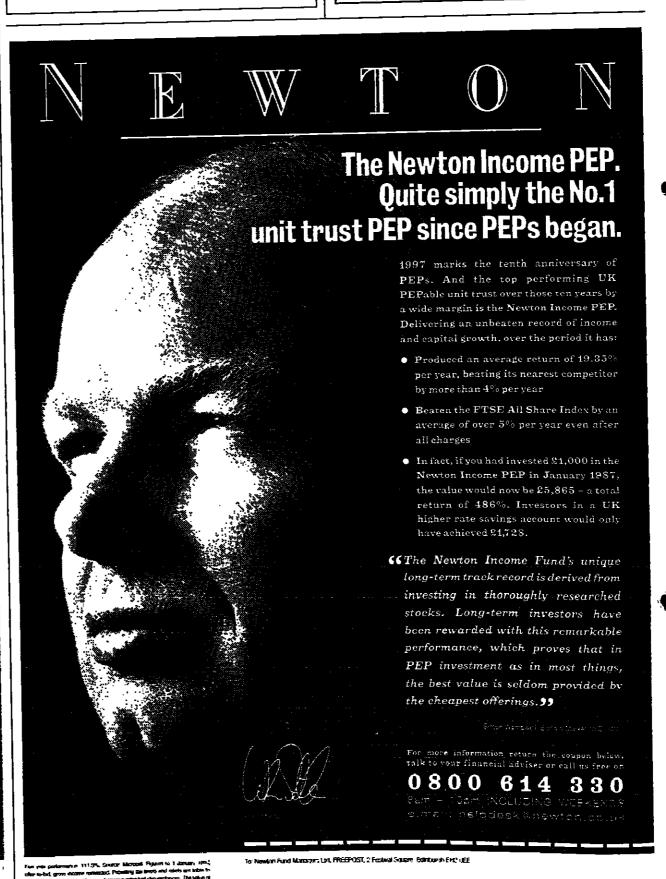
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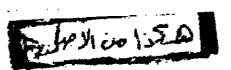
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tAll figures are based on buying to saling price with gross income reinvested to 1.3.97. Five year performance to 1.3.97 is 179% (Source: Micropal). The value of investments, and any income from them, can tall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested. Exchange rates may also affect performance. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. On 24.5.98 the investment objective of the fund (formerly known as Scotibits) was broadened from investment in financial services to investment in any economic sector. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Save & Prosper Group is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMPO. We only advise on products and services offered by the Plemings and Save & Prosper Marketing Group.



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is explained and simplified in Plan Your Investments Like An Expert. The step-by-step guide shows how to develop a successful investment strategy without spending hundreds of pounds on a professional Whether you are investing a small, weekly saving or a sixfigure sum, the book shows you how to make the most of your money. Published by Foulsham on March 24, priced £6.99, it is available from bookshops or by mail order (01624 675137).

■ DELOTITE & TOUCHE, the chartered accountant. has published a selection of year-end tips for cutting your tax bill in its Personal Tax Planner 1997. With the general election less than two months away, it is an ideal opportunity to think about longer-term tax planning, according to the guide. Changes should be made with regard to pensions, work-related benefits, tax-efficient investments, and capital gains tax planning. For a free copy, call 0171-303 5040.

FITHE Ernst & Young Tax Saver's Companion has been

completing your tax return under the new self-assessment regime plus a year-end strategy to cutting your 1996-97 tax bill. It is published by John Wiley & Co and is available in bookshops from March 20.

TO HELP to avoid a big bill from the taxman, Kidsons Impey, the accountant, has published a free guide to taxation for the family com-pany. The guide covers a variety of topics from start-up to expansion to selling in case study format and identifies the tax issues at these key stages. For a copy of Taxation of the Family Company, call 0171-334 4778

■ THE latest publications from the Inland Revenue are: Employer Compliance Reviews and Negotiations, which looks at employers' and contractors' records and how settlements are negotiated, and Separation, Divorce and Maintenance Payments, which gives a detailed explanation of their treatment for tax purposes. Available free from your local tax centre.

LIZANNE ROSE

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Instnt Access	Instant	£1	5.75	·Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select Inst	Postal	£5,000	6.35	Y
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instnt Postal	Postal	£10,000	6.40	Yh
Stroud & Swindon BS 0800 618161	Direct Inst	Postal	£50,000	6.60	Yh
		Notice			Interes
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	pak
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 20	20 day p	£5,000	6.05	Yh
First National BS 0800 558844	30 Day Notice	30 day p	£10,000	6.30	ΥŊ
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 60	60 day p	£10,000	6.50	Y
Birmingham Midshires 0500 070707	First Class 90	90 daý p	£10,000	6.55	ΥŊ
		Notice			Interes
FIRST TESSAS (TAX-FREE)	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	paic
Abbey National 0800 100801	Fxd+feeder a/c	5 year	£9,000	7.50	F/Yh
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fxd+feeder a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Yly
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716		5 year	£2,500	7.00	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0990 143668		5 year	£3,000	7.00	Yh

Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505 Holmesdale BS 01737 245716 West Bromwich BS 0990 143668		5 year £	8,575 7.5 2,500 7.0 3,000 7.0	0 Yiy
VISA	DIT CARDS B	EST BUYS		
CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000 RBS Advanta 0800 077770 Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Advantage Visa Visa Visa	0.64%NC 0.79%N 0.79%N	7.90%N 9.90%N 9.90%N	Nii Nii Nii
£? PERS	ONAL LOANS	BEST BUY	S	
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payn with insurance		0 for 3yrs insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421 Lombard Direct 0800 215000 RBS Direct 0800 121125	12.90%H 13.90%A 14.00%	£112.6 £120.0 £114.7	2	£102.59 £101.20 £101.45

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to investment & Mongage Rates (01692 500 677)

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LARGER LENDERS

Loan

to £250k

to £500k

LARGER LOANS

Loan size

£25-150k

4.29 £20-200k

0.99 £20-145k

4.25 £150-250k

0.25 £30-100k

0.99 £20-145k

interest rale %

Lender

Building Societies

Bank of Ireland 01189 510100 Royal Bank of Scot 0131 523 4442

Building Societie Scarborough 0800 590547

Nottingham Impe 0115 9817220

Bank of Ireland 01189 510100

Alliance & Leic 0800 412214

Woolwich 0181 2985831 Nationwide 0800 302010

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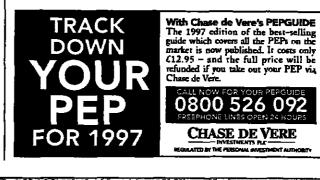
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BASE RATES V MORTGAGES

92 93 94 95 96 97	All figures are the purchase), guarantee	gross and d 5 years	nual and s, paid n	nuity (£100 nonthly in a	,000 advance
·	SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
PRICE INDEX	Canada Life Level Royal Sun AliLevel Sun Li of CanLevel Sun Life Level Generali Level		£ 9,647 £ 9,429 £ 9,508 £ 9,421 £ 9,479	£10,728 £10,573 £10,557 £10,536 £10,523	£12,20 £12,12 £11,98 £12,04 £11,88
- F	SINGLE LIFE	Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
	Canada LifeLevel Canada LifeLevel Norwich UnionLevel Royal Sun AllLevel Sun Lf of CanLevel		£9,013 £8,948 £8,838 £8,693 £8,761	£ 9,818 £ 9,757 £ 9,598 £ 9,543 £ 9,510	£11,00 £10,94 £10,70 £10,78 £10,60
40	OO JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Fømale:	Age 60 Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 7
30	Canada LifeLevel PrudentialLevel Stalwart *Level Norwich UnionLevel Sun Lf of CanLevel		£8,520 £8,536 £8,318 £8,398 £8,379	29,140 29,068 29,011 28,968 £8,962	£10,02 £ 9,88 £ 9,79 £ 9,77 £ 9,78
* The same of the	Source: Arresty Dept. (0171-588)	ligh <i>e</i> r rates k 1393)	or amokers.		
MJJASONDJFM 35	Figures cor	npiled b	y Lizanr	ne Rose	

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societ	ies			
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.50	£15k+	95	3.75% discount for 12 months
Newbury 01635 43676	3.99	£15-150k	95	3% discount for 12 months
Woolwich 0181 298 5831	5.29	£20-200k	95	2% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc 6 mth 3% disc 6 mths
TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% disc for 12 months
Largar lenders, loans :	and first-time i	buyers tables by	Blay's Ga	udes Ltd. (01753 890482).



ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at March 13, 1997 Standard Rate (%) Investment (£) 1 Year AIG Life (UK) Pinnacle 5,000 5.25 5.40 5.55 5.65 10,000 AIG Life (UK) AIG Life (UK) 20.000 1,000 3,000 ITT Lon & Edin AIG Life (UK) AIG Life (UK) 5.80 5.85 5.90 5.10 Hambro Assured ITT Lon & Edin

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

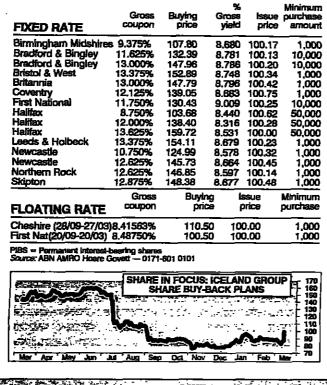
5 Years	1,000 3,000	Hambro Assured	5.55 6.35
	1,000 3,000	Hambro Assured	5.60 6.75
Source: Chamberl	ain de Broë 0171-4	34 4222. Net rates, income and	capital gver

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Equities reverse early falls

UTTOXETER

RACING: IMPROVING STAYER CAN UNDERMINE LORD GYLLENE'S GRAND NATIONAL CLAIMS

Seven Towers has pedigree for success

By JULIAN MUSCAT

BOOKMAKERS might be wise to beware the stayer on home soil. Two days after Karshi annexed the long-distance hurdling championship in the livery of Lord Vestey, the chairman at Cheltenham, Lord Gyllene - owned by Uttoxeter's proprietor. Stan Clarke — attempts a similar mission in the Marstons Pedigree Midlands Grand Nat-

Punters are often tempted by such circumstances, but they should also consider the mantle inherited by Lord Gyllene in respect of the Grand National itself. Lo Stregone was the favourite until failing at Haydock last month. He was immediately usurped by Coome Hill, who promptly fluffed his lines in the Gold Cup. The poisoned chalice has now been passed to Lord Gyllene.

If the nine-year-old is well suited to this venue, he has never conceded weight to op-ponents of this calibre. True, his defeat of Mudahim over the course and distance looked attractive when the runner-up subsequently prevailed at Kempton, but Mudahim has since run badly at Cheltenham. Highly weighted as he is. Lord Gyllene makes little appeal at the likely odds and Seven Towers can dent his Aintree aspirations.

Seven Towers has landed

progress had been hesitant until connections sent him over marathon distances this term. He just gets better and better, as was evident by his decisive victory over an extended four miles most recently. Killeshin, beaten eight

lengths into third, is allowed 816 this time. Those who witnessed the Newcastle contest will expect a similar

The thought of McGregor The Third confronting Ain-



savour. The events of Cheltenham have all but ensured a huge rise in the National weights — much to the benefit of McGregor The Third, allotted just 8st 12lb. Jumping is his forte but he will not be seen to maximum advantage over Uttoxeter's undernanding

Musthaveaswig is admira-ble but prone to frustrating jumping lapses, while Sister Stephanie, another with much to gain from an Aintree eights rise, would be more comfortable on softer ground. That leaves Tony McCoy's mount, Act The Wag, as the biggest threat. The eight-year-old's more polished fencing has allowed his talent to biossom this season. He may also improve over this longer trip in search of a fourth successive victory, but Seven Towers can take his measure.

The Scottish Equitable Jockeys' Association Series Final Handicap Hurdle (1.15) is a tightly knit affair in which Edgemoor Prince deserves respect after a game victory at Warwick most recently. The first two finished 20 lengths clear of nine others and Edgemoor Prince is almost certainly on the upgrade.

Although Sail By The Stars prevailed comfortably on her recent chasing debut, her inexperience is not encouraging in the European Breeders' Fund Tattersalls (Ireland) Mares Novices' Chase Handicap Final (12.45). Should the Channel 4 commentator refer in running to its full title, the contest will be well into its closing stages. There may just be sufficient time to call Tellicherry home ahead of her

The concluding televised heat, the Bet With The Tote Novices' Handicap Chase Final (2.25), can go to Kamikaze.



Act The Wag is a leading contender for the Midlands Grand National at Uttoxeter today

The Artful Rascal seeks prestige win

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

races, worth £500, double the usual maximum, takes place at the West Street-Tickham

It is the first time since 1990 that any increase has been allowed, and the cost of training horses has risen sharply in that time, particularly now many yards maintain or pay to use all-weather gallops. It was felt that some long-estab-lished "classic" races were losing kudos to hunter chases and sponsored championships, hence the prestige-race

Tomorrow's event, a fourmile men's open, has attracted 29 entries, only two more than last year, but the test of popularity will be in the clared runners. The Artful Rascal, a progressive horse who travels from Suffolk, is

likely to start favourite. The best horse in action this weekend is The Bounder, who tackles the men's open at the Quantock Staghounds fixture. He beat Fantus at Did-

a year, and the fee is refunded.

ham suggest The Bounder is

on his way to the top. Bengers Moor is another exciting talent on a nine-race card, and credit must go to the owners of the Cothelstone track, who were criticised last year over the ground conditions. They ploughed up the track and began afresh and have been rewarded by some good entries

Julian Pritchard is in form, his four winners last Saturday having since been topped up by two hunter chase successes. Pritchard rides the Nicky Sheppard-trained Prideaux Prince at the New Forest Buckhounds meeting but will find the Jamie Jukes-ridden King Torus hard to beat.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Dunston Harriers at Ampton. 4m N of Bury St Edmunds first race 1 00), Holderness at Dation Park, 5m N of Beverley (1 30). N Forest Buck at Larkfull, 5m NW of Amesbury (12.30): Bishops Lydeard (12.30). Western at Wadebridge, 1m W of town (12.00)

TOMORROW: Carmarthenshive at Erw Lon, 10m N of Carmarthen (12.30), Cottesmore at Garthorpe, 6m E of Mettor Cottesmore at Garthorpe, 6m E of Metton Mowbray (12:30); Dart Vale & Haldion at Beshops Court. 1m S of Otters St Mary (1:00): Egistaton et Lanart., 3m S of cown, (1:00): Ross Hamiers at Garnons, 8m W of Haestord (1:00); West Street-Tickham at Detling, 2m NE of Maldstone (1:15)

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4m 2f, H'cap Chase, Uttoxeter 1.50pm, Live on CH4 TV.

5/1 McGregor The Third

7/4 Lord Gyllene

11/4 Seven Towers

6/1 Act The Wag

10/1 Sister Stephanie 12/1 Killeshin

16/1 Musthaveaswig

150/1 Special Account

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GRAND NATIONAL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Folkestone

Going: good, good to soft in places 2.00 (2m (1 110yd hdie) 1, Reish in The Pan (W McFerland, 11-2), 2, Lauria Lye (6-1), 3, Pedaritofremetal (9-4 lay) 11 ran 8, 7/ J Moore Tote: 57.20; 52.30, 51.70, 51.10 DF 524.80, Tho 224 80. Tho. £26 00. CSF- £34.06.
2.30 (3m 2f ch) 1, Filippance (C Llewellyn, 6-1); 2, High Leane (9-4); 3, Bond Jim (100-30) Sir Leonard 13-8 tav (pu) 7 ran. 8t. 18. N Gaselee. Tote: £5 10; £2.20. £1.60. DF: £5.20. CSF- £18 10
3.00 (2m 1f 110yd hdfe) 1, Sharpical (M A Fiziperald, 1-12 tav); 2. Fee On ice (14-1); 3, Leap Prop (14-1) 8 ran. NR Smart Remark. 3, nk. N Henderson, Tote £1.20; £1.00. £2.40, £2.70. DF; £2.80 Tho: £4.40. CSF-£2.28

3.30 (2m ch) 1. The Carrot Man (P Hide, 7-4 tav); 2, Cooleen Haro (3-1); 3, Lasata (13-2) 4 ran. NR, Phersik. 24, dast. P Winkworth. Tote: £2.40 DF: £3.30 CSF £6.48

4.00 (2m 1/110)/d Indie) 1, Caracol (T Dascombe, 6-1), 2, Mullinior (8-1); 3, Swriging Sches (7-2) Minage O Windsor 3-1 lav (pul 1/2 ran. 3), 3/4 J Neville, Tote ER 70; 23.9), 22.80, 62.20, 0.P. 225.00 Tho. £4.480 CSF £58 18 Tricast £189.64 No lad. 4.30 (3m 2) ch) 1, Royal Saxon (R Johnson, 5-1); 2 Shamaphil (13-2); 3, Yooman Wamor (11-2) Sugar Hd 5-2 (av (pu) 10 ran NR-Cuise Control, 2hl, XI, P Bowen Tole: 98 00; 22-60, 6; 90, 52-40 DF, 5:14-40 Trio £36 20, CSF; £33 73 Thicast £167.32 25.00 (27: 11 110yd fist race) 1, Sunday Venture (M. A. Fitzgerald, 15-8 favt; 2, Shebang (4-1); 3, Shev Soccoo (14-1); 16 ran 81, 394, N. Henderson, Tote 52,70; 51.20, 51.80; 95.80 DF, 25.40 Tro 525.00. CSF, 59.41

Jackpot: £11,083.50. Fakenham

Gorge good 2.10 (2m hole) 1. Antiguan Flyer (Micheel Brennan, 20-1), 2. General Shirtey (8-1); 3. Arch Angel (7-1), Ruth's Gamble 3-1 fav. 12 ran. 11. 2. G. Prodromou. Tote: £33.50, £7.70. £2.40, £1.80. DF. £187.50. Tric. £240. 40, CSF. £168.81. Tricest: £1.153.53. 1240 40. CSF 1109 61) 1 (108 61 100 62) 2.40 (2m 51 1109 61) 1.74) 2. 40 (2m 51 1109 61) 1.74) 2. 40 (2m 51 1109 61) 1.74) 2. 40 (2m 51 110 61) 1.74) 2. 40 (2m 51 110 61) 1.74) 1.74) 1.75) 1.7

\$39.0. CSF £40.25 \$1.10 (2m Sf 110)rd chj 1, Plate Mirristrel (A Dobbin, 9-1); 2, Antic Wings (9-4), 3, Whappers Defight (100-30), Haweken Youth Evens lav 5 ran 7, 20 H 7 Champton Tote £8.60; £3.70, £1.50 DF £12.00, CSF

228 73
3,40 (2m holle) 1, Berlord Sovereign (A Cobbin, 3-1), 2, Pintaw (6-4 tex), 3, Ajdar (8-1) 8 ren. NIP Insh Emerald, Hd, 16t J Fanshawe Tote £4 80, £1 70, £1 10, £1,70 DF £4 80 Trio £5 70. CSF £7 85 Tricsst:

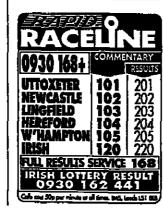
C29 50 4.10 (3m 110)rd ch) 1, Brogeen Lady (P Niven, 6-4 tay), 2, Jolly Boat (4-1), 3, Charter Lane (12-1) 8 ran. 27-5, 18 D Gandolfo Total: C3 30, £1.80, £2.20, £2.50 DF, £8.50 CSF: £8.02 CSF-28 02
4-90 (2m holle) 1. Florid (M Berry, 3-1): 2. Taarish (9-2); 3, Formidable Partner (9-4 fav). 7 ran NR- O K Kealy 22, 14 C Brooks Tote 23 80: 22 10, £1 80 D £3 60 C 55 £16 84 510 (2m holle) 1, Muhandam (P Henley, 6-1): 2, Wertworth (2-1): 3, Air Commodore 15-4 Layl 8 ran 9, 3 Mrs D Haine Tote 27 60, £3 10, £1 00, £1 50 DF £10 30 CSF-118 36

Placapot: £291.00. Quadpot: £18.10. Southwell

2.20 (1m 4) 1, Moonraking (G Parkin, 9-1); 2. Vilnamariyra Girl (7-1); 3, Dirab (7-1); 4, Hasta La Vista (B-1) Wildins 5-1 tav. 16 ran. MR Mr. Speculation 11, ris. T Etherington, Tote: £17 90, £3 50, £2.40, £3 10, £2 80 DF-£90.00. Tric: £334.20 (part won; pool of £55 91 carried forward to 5-30 at Hereford today) CSF £86.82 Tricast: £450.94 2.50 (11m) 1. Soldier Cove (D Supeney, 3-1). 250 (1m) 1, Soldier Cove (D Sweeney, 3-1), 2, First Gold (20-1); 3, Live Project (9-4 fav) 10 ran 2/sl, 2/sl M Meada Tote £5.80, 22 10, 23.00, £1.30 DF £37.50 Tno £15.10 CSF £63.67

12.10, 12.00, 17.30 DF 137 S0 Tro £15 10 CSF £63 67
3.20 (67) 1, 80mystus Mill (R Havier, 20-1), 2, Barwell Boy (8-1), 3, Impoch (33-1), Seratoge Red 4-5 tav 9 ran 1 lvt, 1 lvt, A Streeter Tote £14.00, 80 io, £12.0, £7 80 DF: £98 70 Trio £170.80 (part won; pool of £125 11 canned loward to 5-30 at Hereford today). CSF-£177 oS
3.50 (69) 1, Double-O (K Fallon, 5-1); 2, The Wyandoste Inn (4-1); 3, V I P Charrie (4-5 lav), 4 ran, 8, 124, W Jarvis, Tote, £4.30, DF, £5 30 CSF, £20 58
4.20 (1m) 1, Mirror Four Sport (K Sact, 10-1); 2, Aspecto Lad (11-4); 3, Marchew (2-1 lav), 7 ran, 31, 41 M Johnston Toto £11 90; £4.20, E1.90, DF; £23.80 CSF, £27 67
4.60 (1m) 1, Squara Deel (S Webster, 12-1), 4.50 (Im) 1. Square Deel (S Websier, 12-1), 2. Major Mouse (8-1): 3. Desert invader (100-30): Northern Fan 3-1 (av. 9 cm. NR-Roar On Tour. 1 vt., 1 vt. 5 Bowring Tote £14.00, £4.00, £1.80, £1.50 DF £34.10 Tho. £129.10 CSF £101.10

\$129 (0 CSF \$10110) \$220 (7) 1. Genuine John (J Bramini), 11-8 lav); 2. Evening in Pans (4-1); 3. Will Do (5-1) 6 ran 11-1, 11-1 J Parkes Tole, \$2.20, \$2.80 \$4.00. DF \$4.60 CSF \$7.02 Placepot. £4,767.10. Quadpot: £908.20.



HEREFORD

2.20 Proud Image. 2.55 Scottish Barnbi. 3.25 Added Dimension. 4.00 Prince Of Verona. 4.30 Precious Island, 5.00 Northern Singer. 5.30 Professor Page.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

2.20 MARCH NOVICES SELLING HURDLE

TIME OF REPORT IN THE PROPERTY	
(£2,122: 2m 1f) (16 runners)	
1 3132 PROUD IMAGE 21 (BF,F) 6 McCourt 5-11-7 J Oshi	017
2 BOOT JACK P Rich 8-11-1	sÞ
3 04/ CORPORATE IMAGE 1129 T Hind 7-11-1 P McLoux	įН
4 PRPO ERINEST ARASORIN 32 (V) Mrs S Lammar 8-11-1 Derek B	yи
5 OF ESPLA 32 J Moore 6-11-1	ы
6 -000 HANGING GROVE 9 P Murphy 7-11-1 Sophia Mitchell	1
7 POID- KARREU 357 (GER) J Becnet 5-11-1 L Ha	m
8 DP ROOUTA 88 J McConnochie 10-11-1 X Aizpuro	10
9 0523 SHARP THRILL 3SF B Smart 6-11-1 C Lizeux	ė
10 36-5 SLANEY RASHER 262 B Lieurellyn 10-11-1 Mr J L Lieuw	ø
1) PU- VITAL WONDER 308P J Parist 9-11-1 M Griffions	ď
12 PP A BADGE 700 FAR 16 Mrs L Williamson 7-10-10 . A Bell	an
13 AMANY 549F D Burchell 5-10-10 D.J Burchell	dia
14 5-00 VITA NUIVA 10 W Jeris 6-10-10 V Slet	ďΩ
15 4F EL BARDADOR 10 R Hodoes 4-10-7 T Dascombe	16
15 4F EL BARDADOR 10 R Hodges 4-10-7 T Descombe 16 0000 STRLL HERE 5 (B) P Bowen 4-10-7 Mr R Thornton	ď
5-2 Proud Image, 6-1 Amany, 7-1 Steep Thrift, 8-1 Steep Raster, Still Hen	
A.C. Lifers Budder A.s. sample is a female many of present seems over	- '

2.55 NEWENT HANDICAP CHASE

1 2P13 SCOTTISH BAMBI 7 (CD,BF,F,G,S) P Webber 9-11-10 J Osborne
2 P.PS MONDAY CLUB 105 (CD.F.6.5) J Tuck 13-11-0. R Bellamy
3 3386 NORTHERN OPTIMEST 115 (D.EF.F.6) 8 Liewellyn 9-10-1 4 315/ CORPUS 666 (D.F) R Hodges 8-10-0...... T Descorbe (3) 5 5201 DR ROCKET 5 (V.CD.F.G.S) R Dictor 12-10-0.... X Alzpuru (7)

Evens Scottish Barnbi, 7-4 Dr Rocket, 6-1 Northern Optimust, 14-1 Corpus, Manday Club 3.25 BOSBURY HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,717: 2m 1f) (5) 4-6 Asided Damersion. 3-1 Menetave, 5-1 Schoozele, 10-1 Va Litu. 25-1 The Brewer

4.00 CHARLIE KNIPE HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,492; 3m 1/1 110yd) (11)

1 P-01 HIGHWAY RVE 10 (CD.6.S) Lady 5 Brooke 9-12-7
Miss E James (7)
2 1-PU WHAT A TO DO 9 (F.S) C Seesing 13-12-4
Miss L James (7) 2 1-PU WHAT A TO DO 9 (F.S) C Sweeting 13-12-4
Miss L Sweeting (7)
3 P-21 CHPNTRIN 7P (F.G.S) Ms M Teague 11-12-0 ... J Comes (7)
4 3-31 PREST HARVEST 7P (F.G.S) P Henry 10-12-0 ... P Hanry (7)
5 48-5 GAY ENTIAN 18 (C.G.S) Mrs D Dyson 11-12-0
Miss C Dyson (7)
6 0-66 KINGSTSHER BAY 7P (D.F.6) O Little 12-12-0 ... B Strentin (7)
7 -154 ORTON HOUSE 10 (F.G.) S Aelly 10-12-0 ... R Burton (7)
8 12/3 PRINCE OF VERIONA 28P (E.S) T Holland-Martin 10-12-0 R Sweeting (7)
9 -322 TEATRADER 10 (F.G.S) Miss T Blazer 11-12-0

R Sweeting (7)
3 -322 TEATRADER 10 (F.G.S) Mass T Shazey 11-12-0
Miss T Bhazey (7)
10 2-P2 THE RUM MARRHER 7P (F.G.S) Mrs J Skelton 10-12-0
R Thornton (5) 11 P11/ PENLEA LADY 677 (F) Mrs S Addinsel 10-11-9 _ S Lloyd (7) 7-2 Testrader, 4-1 Highway Five, 5-1 Chip'n'nur. Prince Ol Verona, 7-1 What A To Do, First Harvest, 8-1 Position Lady, 12-1 others.

4.30 TEME MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,703: 2m 3f 110yd) (5)

Frenc Swing Quartel, 11-4 Kadarl, 6-1 Jostfina, 7-1 Precious Island, 10-1 Sevso.

5.00 MALVERN NOVICES CHASE (£2,868: 2m) (8)

7 Discombe (3)

2 4541 OURCK OLOTE 12 (D.F.) Mrs I McNe 7-11-3 Mr R Thompon (5)

3 1054 TENAYESTELION 16 (D.F.(5) D Marks 9-11-3 Mr R Thompon (5)

4 00-P MASONS FARM 10 W CINY 7-11-2 ... Gay Linvis (3)

5 4004 OURCK DECISION 46 J Dressvel 6-11-2 ... N T Egan (7)

6 9-30 RELAKEO LAD 10 J Pascock 8-11-2 ... R Belatry

7 P-0F WHOD OF THOUGHT IT 32 P Charmon 6-11-2 ... B Fenton

8 P/04 DILETNS CURRATE 12 Mrs E Scor 10-10-11 ... B Powrell 5-4 Northern Singer, 7-4 Outch Coorle, 9-2 Tenayestelign, 8-1 Ouvers Curste, 12-1. Relaxed Lad, 16-1 Outch Decision, 33-1 others

5.30 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,528: 3m 2f) (17)

(£2,528: 3m 2f) (17)

1 2515 COPPER COLL 35 (5) W 6 M Turner 7-11-13 ... J Power (7)

2 403F LORD MITROGEN 85 B Liceollyn 7-11-7. ... Mr J L Liceollyn

3 3-56 PROFESSOR PASE 14 I Thomson Jones 7-11-3. X Account (7)

4 0404 COCCE CHERRY 8 C Barrell 7-10-71 ... Mr J L Liceollyn

5 001P SAMMORELLO 16 (CD,5) N Turiston-Daves 6-10-6 C Liceollyn

6 2-50 YOUNG TESS 64F P Bower 7-10-5 ... Mr R Thomson (5)

7 0051 SYTTPIE BROCE 8 (6) 6 McGount 5-10-4 ... R Hobson (7)

8 0007 MCDOADANTE 12 (8) M Mitchell 7-10-2 ... Sophe Mitchell (3)

9 3434 MANUR BOUND 144 (7) Mr S Wittens 7-10-0 R Missey (3)

10 850 BROWN WEN 30 P Hobbs 6-10-0 ... 6 Torrey

11 PSS2 GRAVATE 26 P Hobbs 7-10-0 ... W Marston

13 000P MORRIC PLORIT 10 HB R Ecticy 9-10-0 ... W Marston

14 00PP KENTUCKY 6OLD 22 (8) Mr S Wittenson 8-10-0 ... C Visits

15 6STP PENMANT COLT AE 36 (5) W Jenis 9-10-0 ... R Bellamy

16 00PU SEMMOLE WIND 12 (4) C Barvell 6-10-0 ... B Powell

17 0PDB BROWNSCROFT 16 Mass P Whelle 9-10-0 ... M Graffice (7)

5-1 Craside, 6-1 Moddedgrie, 7-1 Sammarello, 8-1 Brean Wen Spiller Bridge. 5-1 Canale, 6-1 Noddadanie, 7-1 Sammorello, 8-1 Brown When Spillire Bridge 10-1 Professor Page, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Twiston-Davies, 29 winners from 93 numers, 31 2%, P Hobbs, 15 from 57, 36 3%; Mrs 5 Wellams, 3 from 18, 16 7%, W Clay, 4 from 25, 16 0%; O Shewtood, 3 from 19, 15 8%, b. Bridgistate, 7 from 46, 15 2% JOCKEYS: B Fertion, 7 wanters from 20 rides, 35.0%, C Llewellyn, 21 from 73, 28 8%, J Oshome, 8 from 42, 19 0%; R Messay, 4 from 26, 15 4%; P McLeughlen, 5 from 41, 14 6%, D J Burchell, 6 from 44, 13.6%

NEWCASTLE

2.15 Quango. 2.50 Dual Image. 3.20 Meadow Hymn. 3.55 Strath Royal, 4.25 Brighter Shade. 4.55 Shanayooti

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.25 BRIGHTER SHADE.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

2.15 WELCOME TO GOSFORTH PARK NOVICES
HURDLE (\$2,453. 2m) (23 runners)
1 15 ADVANCE EAST 91 (D,G) M Doors 5-11-8 . R Supple U
2 (1-14 BRUMON 7 (V.D.S) D Modern 6-11-8 DOUBTRUL
3 41 FAR AHFAD 21 (D.G.) J Fare 5-11-8
3 41 FAR AHEAD 21 (D.G.) J Eyre 5-11-8
5 3303 MITHRAIC 17 (D,F) W Cunanghern 5-11-8 M Foster 9
6 105 CLUANGO 28 (G) J Fitzyerald 5-11-8 F Leahy (3) 5
7 663 BANGER COUNT 16 M W Exstern 5-11-2 P Littoriey (3)
B 060/ BATTERY FIRED 1201 N Mason 6-11-2 S Hawarth (7)
B 060/ BATTERY FIRED 1201 N Meson 8-11-2 S Hawteth (7) 9 2-02 GOSPEL SONG 18 (BF) A Whallers 5-11-2 G Lee (3) (
10 NYOUGORLUE H Alexander 5-11-2 . Mr T J Barry (7)
1) 0-00 PAPARAZZO 28 (8) G Moore 6-11-2
12 00 PETRICO 17 P Beaumoni 5-11-2
12 00 PETRICO 17 P Beaumon 5-11-2
14 RAMBLING RAJAH Mrs S Bradburne 5-11-2 Mr M Bradburne (i) 15 O SMIPER 18 F Muriath 5-17-2
16 AU-P SOCCER BALL 217 T Watson 7-11-2 E Calleghau (3)
17 PF SOLWAY KBIG 19 M Barnes 7-11-2
18 305 DELIGHTFOOL 12 R Manu 6-10-11 G Califf
19 PO EVENENG DUSK 19 J Chres 5-10-11 S Mediuse (7)
20 /2-4 RAISE A DOLLAR 17 P Beaumont 7-10-11 No S Sentos
21 SHARLEY COP M Carretto 5-10-11 L Wyer
22 3PO KHALIKHOUM 8 Su Joba Barion Bt 4-10-8 J Supple 6
23 305 ONYOUROWN 101 J Howard Johnson 4-10-8 D Parker €
ALT For Shore! S.1 Enemal Sport Full Michael. 7.1 Roules Court: 16.1 Grand

2.50 GRAINGER TOWN HANDICAP CHASE (£2,785: 2m 110yd) (5)

1 3253 TIMBUCKTOD 39 (G,S) J Olmer 10-12-0 ... B Storey 95
2 4132 DUAL BANGE 8 (CDF.G.S.) J Fazyerald 10-11-1 R Gurnthy 20
3 1441 CROSSHOT 17 (CDF.G.S.) R Mactorald 10-10-1 R Supple 94
4 153 GROUSE-H-HEATHER 9 (D.F.S.) P Montant 8-10-3 G Cahall 92
5 0P53 BLAZING DAWN 11 (CD.F.G.S.) J Hubbard. 13-16-0 G Lee (3) 92 9-4 Out Image, 5-2 Crosshot, 7-2 Staping Dawn, 5-1 Timoucidoo Grosse-H-Heather

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: GOLDENSWIFT (12.45 Uttoxeter) Next best: Musthaveaswig (1.50 Uttoxeter)

3.20 TYNE BRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE

2 1 3416 PUREVALUE 22 (6.5) M W Easterby 6-11-10 ... R Garritry 92 2 111- LINLATHEN 292 (6.5) Mrs M Revoley 7-11-8 ... G Lee (3) 89 3 2111 MEADOW HYMN 30 (6) J Fitzgendi 6-11-5 ... W Duran 93 4 6055 COOL LUKE 18 (f.5) F Marphy 8-10-13 Michael Brennan (3) 90 5 120/ KINDA GROOVY 899 (f.6) J Park 8-10-12 M Smith - 5 -370 SUDDEN SYN 896 (6.5) J Mrs J Soodiellow 10-10-10 M Smith - 7-202 LEADING PROSPECT 8 (6.5) Mrs J Soodiellow 10-10-10 M Harrods (7) 98

nt Horrocks (7) 98 2-1 Linkathen, 5-2 Monatow Hymn, 9-2 Leading Prespect, 5-1 Purevalue, 8-1 Cool Lute, 20-1 Kinda Gronry, Sudden Spin.

3.55 NEWCASTLE HANDICAP CHASE (£4,280: 3m) (6) 1 11/5 STRATH ROYAL 19 (CD.F.G.S) 0 Brenson 11-12-0 M Brennan — 2 -213 WHSSPERMS STEEL 14 (D.BF.G.S) 6 Roctards 11-11-118 Storey 86 3 1272 ALLADEER 17 (F.G.N M Eastern 8-10-12 ... R Gardily 86 4U22 CEUIDH 80Y 9 (CD.F.G.S) No. 3 Goodelove 11-10-10 M FR Halb 5 3F2F WESTWELL BOY 35 (D.F.G.) P Beaumont 11-10-3 ... R Supple 89 6 2020 DEEP DECISION 48 (C.F.G.) P Cheechrough 11-10-0 K Johnson 91

5-2 Aljadon, 11-4 Whispering Steel, 4-1 Calluth Boy, 5-1 Westwell Boy, 7-1 Deep Decision, 12-1 Straft Royal

4.25 NORTHUMBERLAND NOVICES CHASE 1 2315 BOLD ACCURRT 10 (B).CD.EF.G) G Moore 7-11-8. B Storey 83
2 161 BRIGHTER SHADE 19 (CD.F.G) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-8 R Camthy (B)
3 FU31 MANYAY 4 (F.S) M Barner, 7-11-3 S Taylor (S) 7
4 FR01 CORSTON JOHER 8 L Lungo 7-11-2 R Supple 71
5 3754 FIRE TUNE 15 Mrs S Bacthurre 7-11-2 M Foster 65
6 2450 MALTA MAN 28 P Cheesbrook 7-11-2 G F Rynn (S) —
7 00F4 SHUT UP 8 (G) Mrs E Moscrop 8-10-11 K Johnson — 2-1 Brighter Stade, 5-2 Netway, 5-1 Bold Account 7-1 Mallo Mart, 6-1 Rice Tune, 10-1 Corston Josep, 20-1 Stud Up

4.55 STUDENT CITY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,550. 2m 4l) (8)

3 0311 HERE COMES HERBIT 21 (0.6) W Slovey 5-11-1 W Moderney 69
4 2-03 TWEEDSWOOD 92 P Recurrent 7-10-10 R Supple 98
5 4-38 JURRAN 7 (0.7) J Dodds: 11-10-9 8 Slovey 98
6 P-43 CKOPWELL ORNES (2) Howard Johnson 7-(0-7 M Foster 98
7 36F1 MOCK TRUL 60 (0.5) Mrs. J Ramoden 4-10-7 R Garnity 90
8 020 LOSTRS 47 M Dods 6-10-3 N Scriet 95

COURSE SPECIALISTS

9-4 Mock Tital, 3-1 Here Comes Herbre, 7-2 Shenavogh, 5-1 Stan's Your Man, 6-1 Tyrediswood, 8-1 Losins, 14-1 others

JOCKEYS: Martin Brennan, 3 wenners from 12 mdes, 25,0%, R Gamily. 11 from 69, 15,9%, L. Wyer, 15 from 96, 15.6%, N Bentley, 7 from 47, 14.9%; M Foster, 3 from 21, 14.3%. Only qualifiers.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Southwell (AW, test race, 2.20), Market Rasen (2.10), Newcastle (2.00) TUESDAY: Fontwell Park (2.00), Sedgefield (2.10). Utloweler WEDNESDAY: Exeler (2.20), Ludlow (2.00), Towcester (2.10)

THURSDAY: Doncaster (C4, 130), Plumpion (225). Wincarton (2 15)
FRIDAY; Doncaster (C4 1 30), Kelso (1 40), Newbury (1 50). SATURDAY: Doncaster (C4, 2,00), Bangor (2,10), Lingfield Park (1,30), Newbury (BBC, 1,15)

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.15 DOMAPPEL (nap). GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE BOY

Recognit manicas. Six-ligane form (F.— 168. P.—
politel 17. U.— inspected indet. B.— brought
down. S.— six-ped up. R.— indused. D.—
disqualibed). Harse's mann. Days since has
ending F. f. Cat. B.— blockers. V.— visor. H.—
hand. E.— Eyestheld. C.— colors wander. D.—
disquare womer. CD.— colors and discharae coing on which horse has was (F — fixen, good to form, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soe, heavy). Owner in backets. Traber. Age and weight. Rider plus any attornance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.25 Monymoss

3.00 Conti D'Estruval

3.30 Bobby Grant

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.45 Coverdale Lane

1.15 GROUSEMAN (nap)

12.45 EBF TATTERSALLS (BRELAND) MARES NOVICES CHASE FINAL (Handicap: £10,796; 2m 5f) (11 runners) SE FINAL (1900(128): 110,190. 201 31) (11 100(128): 1102(138): 1123(138): 1223(138): 1223(138): 1223(138): 1223(138): 123

Long transicap: Debelle 9-12, Koo's Promise 9-11. 1596: GARRYLOUGH 7-10-8 M Dwyer (9-4) D Gamiolio 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

1.75 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE / JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION SERIES HANDICAP HURDLE (Final: £10,065: 2m 4f 110yd) (7 nunners)

1996: KADARI 7-11-0 Guy (amis (6-1) W Clay 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

GROUSENAN best Maries 111 to 5-namer hand-ce herde at Fratheril (2m 2f 110yd, soft) LORD https://document.com/properties/frathering

1.50 MARSTONS PEDIGREE MIDLANDS GRAND NATIONAL (Handicap chase: grade III; £30,867: 4m 2f) (10 runners)

Long handicap: Scribbler 9-10, Beamepare 9-5, Special Account 8-6. SETTING: 2-1 Land Gybene, 11-4 Seven Yowers, 6-1 McGregor The Third, Act The Wag, 12-1 Killeshin, Skile Septembe, 14-1 Musikanesawig, 16-1 Beautspane, 25-1 Scribbler, 66-1 Special Account 1998: ANOTHER EXCUSE 8-10-0 B Payell (14-1) E (FSuillean (Inc) 17 ran

FORM FOCUS LORD SYLLENE bear Advisions 81 in 9-numer tendings class over course and distance (good). SEVEN TOWERS beat by House 81 in heriticap classe at Newtzeste (4m il., good) with KILLENHII (8b beter off) nept; 3rd, MICGREGOR THE THRIO call sists from 181 in classe at Cheleshalm (3m off), good) on penditimate start. SISTER STEPH-LORD GYLLENE heat Madahum 87 in 9-numer handicap classe over course and distance (gnod). SEVEN TOWERS best by House 81 in handicap classe at Newsaste (4m 11, gnod) with KILLESSEN (8th batter off) nept 3rd. MCGRESOR THE THERD

2.25 BET WITH THE TOTE HOVICES CHASE FINAL

(Handicap: £14,070: 3m 2f) (10 runners) 1.048-14 KAMBKAZE 36 (B.BF.5) (Major B Gatenstury) K Bailey 7-11-10... 285F41 MR PICKPOCKET 30 (6.5) (J.Hohres) Mass H Keight 9-11-6... 4-21/112 PV HOUSE 28 (6.5) (Mrs. I. Junghur) J J O'Nell 9-11-6... 32412Z MONYMUSS 21 (6) (S'Poweld Mrs. S Smith 8-10-13... 324122 MONNYOSS 21 (6) (5) Powelt) Mrs 5 Smith 8-10-13 R Gasest
405 21/3444 MAJOR LDOK 22 (C.F) (Mrs H Clastes) 5 Brootstare 9-10-11 A Dobbbe
407 22731 FOCKROTH ROMEO 17 (5) (Lady Columnary C Broots 7-10-8 G Brodley
407 575-270 THE SRY PADRE 51 (M Extense) Mrs J Pleman 8-10-0 R Famount
408 2-31F JUREDOUS CAPTAIN 15 (8) (S) (J Adem) Mrs J Storey 10-10-0 Mr C Storey
409 0-60301 PANLOVA 15 (6) (Mrs M Mulcilorer) R Prover 7-10-0 D O'Sulliver
410 6-PP003 BALLYOGUEAN 9 (V) (Mrs R Mathrew) 9 Mainteen 9-10-0 D Waists

Long handicas: The Shy Padre 9-12, Judicious Captalo 9-10, Pavlora 9-3, Ballydougan 8-10. SETTING: 3-1 by House, 7-2 Fastral Romea, 4-1 Mr Pickpacket, 6-1 Kamiliane, 7-1 Manyatess, 70-1 others. 1995; EVEN BLUE 8-10-5 D McCain (14-1) Mrs C Black 6 ran

KAMIKAZE beat MONYMOSS (17to better off) 11!
In 13-numer novice chase at Market Rasen (2m 6/
110)nd, good) with MAJOR LOOK (17to better off)
110)nd, good) with MAJOR LOOK (17to better off)
117 dib. MR PICKPOCKET beat Orbitalion Lodge 4/
in 12-numer hardicap chase at Touston (3m, good). NY HOUSE beat Woodlands Boy 3h 17numer hardicap chase at Market Rasen (3m 4/
110)nd, good) MONYMOSS beat Seeking Gold 3%/
Selection: MR PICKPOCKET

3.00 DHL WORLDWIDE EXPRESS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,509: 2m 5f) (7 numers)

| 23 | 2-2017 GARSYLOUGH 30 (V.CD.RF.F.G.S) (T Whitley) D Sandoito 8-11-10 D Forti (3) 97 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 8 (G.S) (R Dyden) G Rickards 6-11-7 R Damenouty (8) | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 8 (G.S) (R Dyden) G Rickards 6-11-7 R Damenouty (8) | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 8 (G.S) (R Dyden) G Rickards 6-11-7 R Damenouty (8) | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 8 (G.S) (R Dyden) G Rickard S Portion 1-11-2. A Thombot 92 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A Thombot 92 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A Thombot 92 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A Thombot 92 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A Thombot 92 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-6511 DISCO DES MOTTES 1-11-2. A THOMBOT S PORTION 10 | 5-65 BETTING, 6-4 Disco Des Moltes, 7-2 Garrylaugh, 6-1 Conti D'Estruval, 7-1 Over The Pole, 10-1 others.

1996: SAILOR JIM 9-10-0 C Maude (5-1) P Daton 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

EARRYLOUGH beal Five To Seven 141 in 6-numer handicap chase at Kempton (2m 4/110yd, good) to firm) DISCO DES MOTTES beat Sotto 23 in 5-numer handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4/1, soff). ONLY DESTRUMAL about 241 find at 8 to Fiction in handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3/110yd, good) OVER THE POLE beat Jason's Boy 91 in 4-numer.

3.30 WEATHERBYS INSURANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,501: 2m 6f 110yd) (5 runners)

(£3,501: 2111 of 110yd) (5 146 mm a)

601 24-5005 MERVING (17 4 F.E.S) (Mm S Brasher) Miss H Inlight 9-11-10 R Damecody 9

602 3111 BOBRY GRANT 28 (6.5) (J Thompson) C Grant 6-11-1 P Heren 9

603 4-04253 ROYAL PIPER 22 (C.D.S) (A Darington) A J Wisson 10-11-0 P Heren 9

604 132114 SANTELLA BOY 169 (B.D.F) (The Link Lessing Plurs) C Mann 5-10-12 J Railton 9

605 14601/0- Wither's PRIDE 497 (F.S) (Mrs W Balley) R Hollischead 6-10-8 S Wyong BETTING: 6-4 Bobby Grant, 5-2 Sastella Boy, 3-1 Royal Piper, 6-1 Moving Out, 20-1 Winn's Pride. 1996. YES MAIN 7-10-9 J F Tilley (6-1 lav) Miss H Knighi 18 ran

FORM FOCUS MOVING OUT 20%1 Sh of 13 to Sheritimer in handicap burdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to salt). BOBBY GRANT beat Ashgrove Dancer 41 in 19-runner movice hundle at Newcasite (2m 41, good). ROYAL PIPER neck 2nd of 13 to 3tom. Duct in handicap hundle at Kempton (2m 51, good).

4.05 PRUE FARMER 17TH BIRTHDAY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE 1901: 2m) (12 runners)

113412 RANGTING 14 (0.6) Ohr: J Nayo) C Maon 6-11-8 R Dominody (2)

BARTY BOY The Bardell Family) J Machin 5-11-1 T By
EAGER BEAVER (Mr. R Humphries) Miss H Rivight 5-11-1 J F Thisy
OUS EUROPAST PET 22 (Eurotast Patrochemical Luf) S Brookstraw 7-11-1. A Dabbin 65 (63F54P PLS DE CRESSON 32 (J Natural) Adam 7-11-1 J Railbon 7 (1-1)

O-P LORD LOVE 26 J Corbert P Charmings 5-11-1 A Thorrism
3409-55 MAITRE DE MUSSONE 47 (S) (8) Option) M Tochastes (6-11-1 A P MicCoy 60 ORE) CASSIS 25 (M Penny) H Client 6-11-1 A P MacCoy 60 ORE) CASSIS 25 (M Penny) H Client 6-11-1 G Bradiey 81 (D Natural) A SHICKELS 51 (Uplands Boundards) C Brooks 6-11-1 G Bradiey 81 SD THE ERNS 36 (Stew Hijs Gort Colu) D McCain 5-11-1 T J Mentphy
O SILNEWORD 39 (Mrs W Smith) M Barraclough 6-10-10 T J Mentphy
O SILNEWORD 13 (Lienton Bigey Pinn: Lus) D McCain 4-10-7 D Walsh -

BETTING 5-4 Rangilikel, 4-1 Shekets, 6-1 Matter De Muzeque, 8-1 Eager Beaver, 10-1 others. 1996 RLYING INSTRUCTOR 6-11-8 R Bellamy (4-1 km) P Webber 16 can FORM FOCUS

RAMSTITIVE! beat Near Feet 8! in 9-numer novice handicap hardle at Newtonay (2on 110yd, good) on perutitionate start. EUROFAST PET 28! Set of 10 is break The Rules in novice hardle at Haydock (2m, good) PLS DE CRESSON about 594! dit not 19 is Jervanik in novice hardle at Ayr (2m, good) with MATTRE DE MUSICILE '91 5th RED OASSIS 45!

COURSE SPECIALISTS **TRAINERS** Res **JOCKEYS**

هدا من الاحليد

THE balance of power in British indoor bowls shifted unexpectedly yesterday when England surprised Scotland, 135-113, in the final session of the home international series at Ballymoney (David Rhys

of power

Jones writes). The Scots, who had won the Hilton Trophy six times, went into their match needing to win by a 16-shot margin in order to break new ground with a seventh successive victory, but the scale of defeat conferred upon them the in-

Party States

dignity of the wooden spoon. Under Tony Allcocks' captaincy and with five new caps in the team. England dominated from start to finish. Ireland beat Wales to finish runners-

☐ Golf: Simon Burnell shot a 66 to lead the Lonrho Kenya Open on nine-under-par, 133, at the halfway mark, but confessed that he was out of form. The 26-year-old from Watford scored an eagle and six birdies, but said: "I'm still not playing well, but my long putter is pure silk." He leads by one stroke from Mike Miller, the defending champion from Scotland, and Michael Scholz. of South Africa.

☐ Motor rallying: Mark Higgins, in a Nissan, and Gwyndaf Evans, in a Ford, were locked in fierce battle over the early stages of the Vauxhall Rally of Wales, sharing the lead after the first three stages. This first round of the Mobil I British rally championship started from Bromborough in The Wirral.

Cycling: Chris Boardman. the 4,000 metres and one-hour world record-holder, has his first time-trial this year in Britain tomorrow. He will be the last man to start in a field of 120 riders in the Porthole Grand Prix around Lake

☐ Tennis: Steffi Graf will make her return from a knee injury at the Hamburg Open on April 28. She has been out of action since January.

GOLF

Olazabal hints at return to top form

FROM MEL WEBB IN LISBON

the point.

that he is out of condition. "I'm

overweight, I'm not fit and I'm

eating too much," he said

mournfully, as if to emphasise

Torrance has missed three

cuts in four appearances this

season and, although he is still

ninth in the Ryder Cup table

after some stalwart perfor-

mances late last season, he is

slipping fast. His decision to

stop rolling his own cigarettes

might account for both his

excess baggage and his urge to

satisfy reawakened taste buds.

Instead of his trademark

twiglike roll-ups, he is now

puffing at cigars, which may

Nobody is arguing with

that, but if the way back to

form is the occasional lungful

of tobacco smoke, an early trip

to the corner shop for an ounce

of the best and a packet of

And now, the fashion update promised yesterday.

Phillips, the only man on the

tour who wears a tie when

playing, dipped into his stock

from his sponsors. Tie Rack,

and this time sported a natty

Ben Hogan is said to have

been the boyhood hero of

Phillips, one of whose sisters

designed his distinctive mode

of dress, apparently in Ho-

red item.

THEY hung the "gone home" sign on Severiano Ballesteros's locker at the Portuguese Open at Aroeira yesterday and the Europe Ryder Cup captain was joined on the list of early departures Sam Torrance, another Cup stalwart. Yet, as their fortunes waned, so those of Jose Maria Olazabal waxed. Olazábal is the bookmakers' favourite to win here and it eems that, although Olazabal had doubted their sanity, they might not be so potty after all. Olazabal had a 67 to linish

the day five strokes behind Michael Jonzon, who had a 65 and a total of 132, 12 under par, to lead by two from Wayne Riley, the defending champion, and Peter O'Malley, with Paul Broadhurst and Vanslow Phillips a further shot behind. Olazábal continued to assess his form at about 70 per cent of his best. He has had one eagle. eight birdies and only two bogeys in 36 holes; people are already quaking at the pros-pect of his return to full

efficiency. Ballesteros had a 72 to miss his fourth successive cut, this time by two shots on one over par, and, although it represented a marked improvement on his performance in Dubai, where he missed out by a distant 13 strokes, it had precisely the same effect — an

unwanted weekend off duty. He was joined on the list of early bathees by Torrance, who added a 70 to the calamitous 81 he had recorded the day before but still handsomely failed to beat the cut on seven over par.

Torrance has played in every Ryder Cup since 1981, but will have to buck up before long if he is to play in his ninth match in September. His game is ailing and he admits



Mandy Sutton drives on the 2nd tee in the Roehampton Gold Cup yesterday. She finished on 146, three shots behind the winners, Joanne Oliver and Julie Forbes.

Montgomerie forced into waiting game

THUNDERSTORMS delayed the start of the Honda Classic golf tournament yesterday, leaving Europe's quintet of challengers with little chance of completing their second rounds at Heron Bay, Fort Lauderdale (a Corres-

gan's honour. Perhaps he would have been better off pondent writes). idolising Bobby Locke or Bob-Colin Montgomerie led the by Jones, both of whom were assault on Thursday with a regularly clad in long-sleeved four-under-par 68, one shot white shirt and tie on the off the first-round lead shared course - Hogan rarely was. by Lee Janzen and Paul Stankowski, both of the United States. Ian Woosnam and

Bernhard Langer had rounds of 70, while Jesper Parnevik made 71 and Sandy Lyle 75.

Montgomerie has said he has no immediate intention of joining the US PGA Tour, unlike Woosnam, who is considering joining Nick Faldo on the circuit. Woosnam, disillusioned after slipping to No 33 in the world rankings, intends to play both the American and European Tours should he make the move. Langer, ranked No 18, has contemplated a similar route.

Minister determined to have his wicket way

A GENERAL election is one of the few sporting events that knocks other forms of sport from the forefront of the national consciousness, but I am charmed to learn that even the Damoclesian possibility of an election being called on Monday will not prevent the Minister for Social Security and the Disabled from fulfilling his ambition of playing

هدا من الاعلية

Alistair Burt, for it is he, has already scored a goal at Wembley, playing for Northern MPs. Now Lord's beckons. On Monday, England play Wales in an international for disabled players at the Lord's indoor school. Burt had long ago marked the occasion by challenging Clive Radley, for-merly of Middlesex and Eng-land and now the MCC's head coach, to a single wicket competition and was not going to miss out merely because the future of the country is at

However, the match has been brought forward to the lunch interval, to enable Burt, in the event of the calling of an election, to whiz up to the land of the midnight sun to hug the constituents of Bury North to

lnd coup

And here is a sporting bishop to go with the minister. The Right Rev William Ind, who becomes bishop of Truro in the autumn, is probably the only bishop to have been sent off in a hockey match. It happened in a thrilling encounter between Lincoln diocese and the Mother's Union when Ind was sent off for arguing with the umpire. At 54, he no longer plays hockey, but plans to continue his sporting career in the farflung cricketing nation of Cornwall.

Keeping faith

Goalkeepers of the week are Luigi Buffom, of Parma, Italy's under-21 keeper, and Giuseppe Taglialatela, of Napoli. They are urging keepers of the world to unite: they have nothing to lose but their ancient class enemy, Sepp Blatter, the Fifa secretary. They see Blatter's attempt to introduce a new law, by which SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

goalkeepers must release the ball after a mere eight seconds of hugging it to their chests gratefully, as a denial of human rights. Naturally, this column supports them though in the full knowledge that if goalkeepers were not a despised minority, there would be no point in being

Word game

If you are (a) under 26 (b) think you can impress me and (c) could use £1,500, then here what to do. Write up to 1,000 words on racing, a piece suitable for publication in the racing press, and enter it for the competition organised by the Martin Wills Memorial Trust, 12 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2 7AN, stating name, date of birth, address and telephone number. Entries in by March 20 and make 'em good; I am one of the judges this year.

Letter letters

My recent piece on the sad fate that tends to meet football clubs whose names begin with the letter A has produced some important correspondence. Such a club is, of course, AFC Bournemouth, over which disaster hangs by a thread. Louis Burgess writes to document the fate of other A teams. He offers: Accrington Stanley, resigned from the Football League in March 1962; Aldershot, resigned from the Football League in March 1992; Aberdare, who lost their League place to Torquay in League place in 1929; and Argonauts, who, in 1928, missed out on a place in the League despite polling 16 votes. Mr Burgess suggests that Arsenal should prepare to join the Bundesliga immediately — which would leave Aston Villa in the vulnerable slot behind them. Andrew Skinner adds a

1927; Ashington, who lost their

further gloss on this important issue by pointing put that even Bournemouth drop their charmingly precious AFC. they are not out of the wood. For B clubs tend also to find trouble. He cites: Bradford Park Avenue, kicked out of the Football League in 1970; Brighton and Hove Albion. flirting hourly with damnation; and Bristol Rovers, who continued their career of Big Issue-selling homelessness by moving in with Bristol rugby club this season. He also adds a note about the travails of his own beloved Brentford. And me, I begin to wonder if C clubs are all that

No place to pass

One question seldom asked and in many cases better not asked - of competitors in the longer events is how they manage their lavatorial arrangements. But really, my heart goes out to Nadezhda Ilvina, 22 miles down the road and a long, long way ahead of the rest in the Los Angeles marathon — and absolutely bursting. Eventually, she spotted a gas station - they don't have garages in the United States — and yanked at the door of the ladies. Which was, of course, locked. So she shrugged unhappily and grimacingly ran the rest of the way home. Judges claim that the detour gave her a 45-yard advantage — and she was disqualified.

Ilvina said tearfully: "I had been looking for a bathroom since mile three. I couldn't get in lat the aforementioned gas station so I came back out at the same point I came in off the course." She had suffered from considerable discomfort across the entire course, but didn't dare take on any water. All in all, I think you could say that Ilvina did not have a nice

SPEEDWAY: NEW SEASON TRIGGERS SPENDING BATTLE BETWEEN CLUBS

Sweeping changes on track for elite

BY TONY HOARE

SPEEDWAY was a Seventies phenomenon, hitting peak popularity with riders such as Barry Briggs and Peter Collins helping it to become the country's second most popular spectator sport. Its profile has dwindled to near anonymity in the past ten years, but the sport has spent the winter trying to shed its dated image and head into a new era.

Speedway is motorcycle racing in stadiums, riders on 500cc machines with no brakes tackling oval tracks of up to 400 metres in length. The season opens this weekend and will feature racing at 29 different venues across the country until the end of

October. Sweeping changes have have not gone through with-been made as the British out criticism from the speed-Speedway Promoters' Associ-

adon (BSPA) tormed a new Elite League with the country's leading ten clubs. Terry Russell, the chairman of the BSPA, was the moving force behind the changes and feels the base has been laid for a successful summer. "We have not just tinkered

with it, we have done major surgery and the initial signs are very good," Russell said.
"Within the Elite League, the
promoters are reporting lots of
enthusiasm and interest and season-ticket sales are good. I am very confident that we have got it right and that we will not need such major surgery from here on. Rome wasn't built in a day, but I believe we have done a lot for British speedway."

Plans for the Elite League have not gone through withway public. The most

unpopular proposal was to scrap fabric covers, which are attached to the riders' helmets to let the crowd and referee identify them.

The dated system has now been reinstated, but Russell will not let traditionalists stand in the way of progress. insisting that helmet covers will go eventually. "I care for the hard-core supporters, but unfortunately their money isn't enough, so I have got to try and get a broader audience." he said. On the track, the arrival of

the Elite League has sparked a spending battle between Bradford Dukes and Manchester's Belle Vue Aces, the northern rivals. Bradford's chances were hit by their failure to secure a work permit for Todd Wiltshire, the Australian, but their big-spending suggests that they are

potential champions. On the other side of the Pennines, just days after settling a stadium rent dispute that threatened their existence, Belle Vue drafted in two leading Americans, Sam Ermolenko and Billy Hamill, the individual

world champion. Hamill. 26, will be the No I ranked rider in the Elite League and he feels the BSPA have made the right moves. "I like the changes," he said. "Just looking at the teams, it seems really exciting. It's going to be much more competitive than any year I have known in Britain." Wolverhampion, the Pre-

mier League champions last year, also look menacing, as do previous champions. Eastbourne and Poole. Coventry, Swindon, Ipswich, King's Lynn and Peterborough make up the Elite League.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

RUGBY LINION

(at Cardiff Arms Park) Courage Clubs Championship Rugby v Rotherham (1 0) ...

Leads v Motive
Harrogate v Redruth
Leads v Lydney (12:15)
London Weish v Watsati (2:30)
Otley v Liverpool St Halens
Reading v Havant (2:30)
Rosslyn Park v Fylde
Whartedale v Cifton Fourth division north Asparla v Nuneaton
Herelord v Stoke-on-Trent
Lichteid v Birmingham/Soffful
Preston Grasshoppers v Kendal
Sandal v Worcaster
Sheffield v Stoubridge
Lichteid v Stoubridge
Lichteid v Stoubridge
Lichteid v Stoubridge
Lichteid

Winnington Park v Manchester Fourth division south Cheltenham v Newbury
Henley v Berry Hill
Metropolitan Police v Barlung
North Walsham v Plymouth
Tabard v Askaans

High Wycombe (1.0) NORTH: First division: Bridington v Widnes. Broughton Park v Tynedale; Macdeslield v Bradford and Brigley, New Brighton West Park Bramhops: Stockdon v Sedgley Park, Wigton v Hulf Ionians. MIDLANDS: First division: Hincidey v Camp Hill SOUTH WEST: First division: Brothem v Bridgwater, Gloucester Old Boys v Straud; Maldenhead v St Ives; Matson v Barnsteple; Safisbury v Launceston; Torquay v

First division
Blackrock College v Shannon (2 30)
Dungannon v Old Crescent (2 30)
Garryowen v Lansdowne (2 30)
Old Belveders v Cork Constitution (2 30)
Old Wesley v St Mary's College (2 30)
Terenure College v Instonians (2 30)
Young Munster v Bellymena (2 30)

Second division

(10), Metrose v Langholm: Ortell v Covertry, Oxford University v Wasede University (15); Preston Lodge v West of Scotland (120) RUGBY LEAGUE

RUGBY LEAGUE
Not-off 2.30
NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Beverley v Dudley Hill;
Egremont v Wigan St Patrick's; Mayfeeld v
Woodston; Saddleworth v Lock Leng; West
Hull v Ordhem St Annes First division:
Banow Island v East Leade, Eastmoor v
Blackbrook; Millom v Wigan St Jude's;
Moldgreen v Askam; Waney Central v
Thomfrill. Second division; Eccles v
Surfaugh, Feetherstone Amelieur v Devisbury Moor, Normanlon v Hull Dackers;
Redhill v Ovenden, Shaw Cross v New
Earswick; York Acon v Millord.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Beeston v Browley (at Hightektis, North, 1 30); Bluetherts v Bourmille (at Hitchin Boys School, 2.0); Hull v Trojans (at Hull Inversity, 2.0); Indian Gymkhana v Triversity, 2.0); Indian Gymkhana v

University, Cuty and Control of the

Chiswick
NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division:
Hartogate v Ben Rhydding: Norton v
Sheffield Berliers; Ramgarina v Spiring-felds: Southport v Formby; Swalvelt
Neston; Timperley v Chester.
WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier
discione: Baltern League; v Trillane

WOMENTS NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Balsam Lecester v Trojans (12 30); Cathon v Slough (at Clinon College, 2.30); Donnazler v Joseich (at Bernetthorpe, 12-0), Sutton Canada Life v Hightown (11 30). First division: Bradiord Swithenbank, v Chelmskord Broedcock (1.50); Cition v Carterbury (2 0); Sunderland Bedans v Blueherts (12 30); Winheldon v Bracknell (12 0) Second division: Loughborough Studente v Eating (2 30), Old Loughterwars v St Albaras (1 0); Wost Winey v Sherwood (12 0), Wolang v Ermouth (2 0). WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Bedeyheath v Cambridge City: Harleston Magpies v Sevencalta; Ipowich v Ashtord, Welvyn Garden City v Bury St Edmunds Midlandas Aldindge v Leocestor: Bedford v Piclowick, Crimson Ramblers v West Bromanch, North Staffs v Hampton, North; Blackburn v Sheffield; Liverpool v Chester Poynton v Wetton, York v Carlisle Souths Dulwich v Reading, Horsham v Tulise Hill; Southsempton v City of Portsmouth; Winchmore Hill v Winchester; Wortling v Hamptead, West Chellenham v St Austeli;

HOME NATIONS YOUTH TOURNAMENT: Under-18: Wales v Irclard (1 0), England v Scotland (2 0) Under-18: Ireland v Wales (12.0), England v Scotland (4 0) (all at OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Yonex All-England Open Championships (NIA Birmingham). BASKETBALL: Budwelser League: Derby v Manchester 17.30); Leocater v Crystal Palace (7.30); Thames Valley v Leopards (8.0) Workforn v Meneral and Metach (8.0). Palace (7.30); Thames Valley v Leopards (8.0), Worthing v Hemel and Wistord (8.0), National League: Mert: First division: Bury and Bolton v Notinigham (7.30), Cardiff v Bridan (8.0), Coveriny v Liverpool (7.30); Guildlord v Stockon (8.0), Westminister v Pymouth (8.0), Second division: Aston v South Bank (7.30); Bournemouth v Firsthire (8.0), Chessington v Sheffield (8.0), Solihuli v South Wales (8.0); Thames Valley v Northampton (3.30) Women: First division: Barlung and Doparham v Rhonddia (8.0), Bringham v Nottingham (4.0), Harlesden v Spelfnorne (7.0); London v Crysta Palace (6.0). Thames Valley v Ipswich (5.45). Second division: Play-offs: Semi-final: Leicester v Manchester (5.0).

Semi-final: Leicester v Manchester (5 0)
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague play-oths:
Group A: Any v Nencester (6:30) Group B:
Stretteld v Basmostoke (6:35): Bracknell v
Nothingham (6:30)
LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society
League. Premier division: Boardman and
Eccles v Mellor; Heaton Mersey v Chapotle
Hume, Oid Waconan: v Cheodie. Stockport v Hulmeiers. National girts schools
champtonship (ar Million Keynes. 11:30)
MOTOR RALLYING: Welch Railv. MOTOR RALLYING: Welch Rally.

ROWING: Cambridge v Impenal College London (Tideway) SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Covertry v Swandon (7 30) MING: British grand prix meeting (a

TABLE TENNIS: English championships (at Brighton)
VOLLEYBALL: National Leegue: MentFirst division: Malory Lewisham v City of
Stoke (12 0); Malory Lewisham v Sportsel
Whiteleid (2 30); Rebob. Liverpool City v
Wanneck Riga (5 30), Leeds v Tooting Aquia
(2 30); Crotion Sportswearhouse v City of
Stoke (3 0); Wessax v Polorina Ealing (6 30)
Womon: First division: Sireflield Wechesday v Loughborough (2 30), Leeds v
Britanna Music City (2 30)

LINGFIELD PARK 1 4313 TICKERTY'S GIFT 31 (CD,8F,S) 6 L Moore 7-11-13 M Batchelor (7) 2 -OF4 SPRBNG TO GLORY 22 (D.F.G) P Hayward 10-11-4 M A Fizzgerald 2.10 Hangover. 2.40 Eau De Cologne. 3.10 Buckland Lad. 3.45 Tickerty's Gift. 4.15 Amber Spark. 4.45 Ross Dancer. 5.15 Country House. 7.00 Big Bang. 7.30 English Invader. 8.00 Noufari. 8.30 Komasta. 9.00 Lochon. 9.30 Sweet Supposin.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES)

2.10 RUBY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (£2,245: 2m 4f 110yd) (6 runners) PRITEIR CPASE (12,243, 21) 41 Troyof (Controls)

PRIF CPAL'S TENSPOT 11 (F.G.S) J Bradie; 10-11-10 ... L Aspell
33F33 HANGOVER 18 (G.S) R Lea 11-11-6 ... David Turner (7)
5066 MADAM ROSE 26 J Mulner 7-10-12 ... David Turner (7)
565 FATTASH 201 (8) P Mooney 5-10-12 ... S Ryan
471- RISELPWILLERIEULY 313P (6) D Basseti 11-10-12
W Grashox (7) W Greater
6 0465 FULL SHILLING 17 (8) D Wildrams 8-10-12.... D.J Kanar

Evens Opal's Tenspot, 2-1 Hangton, 8-1 Resemblemently, 10-1 Feb Shifting, 12-1 Madam Rose 20-1 February 2.40 GUILD VENTURE DIAMOND NOVICES HURDLE (£3,401: 2m 3i 110yd) (10)

inger in the state of the state

UHU/LE (X.3,4U1: ZITI SI TTU/O) (TU)

1 2131 SPLENDIO THYNE 15 (C.S) T Casey 5-12-8 ... M. A Chageraid
2 48P CHARLIE'S FOLLY 31 B De Haar 6-11-2 ... P Horsey (3)
4 692 COOL SPOT 488 G Enroln 9-11-2 ... J R Kyearaigh
5 32 EAU DE COLLENES IN S. L Richards 5-11-2 ... J R Kyearaigh
6 0-PP SUPREME CRISADER 8 W McKenzoe-Cotes 6-11-2 . E Byrne
7 0 TURALA 16 N Chance 5-11-2 ... D Lealty
8 12 CHEERRIL ASPECT 14 (CD.8F,S) T Forster 4-10-13 9 251 ELA AGAPI MOUL 4 (6) 6 L Moore 4-10-13 P Hobey
10 223 ALL DONE 14 S Mellor 4-10-2.
2-1 Cheerfol Aspect, 9-4 Spherdid Thyre, 7-1 Cheely Charlie, Ela Agapi Mou, 10-1
Eau De Cologre, 12-1 Cool Spot, All Done, 20-1 others.

3.10 NORTHERN TRUST SAPPHIRE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,052: 2m) (5)

1 124 RWER LEVEN SO (B.D.S.S) D Bandello 8-11-10 M Williamson
2 4654 RED BEAN 24 (D.G.S.K Veccart B-11-5 M A Fizzgarial
3 2-31 BUCKLAND LAD 24 (D.E.S.K D Binsall 6-11-0 JR Kammagh
4 1323 RICHU 88 (CD.BF.F.S) Mis L Richards 8-10-11 M Richards
5 542P COPPER CARLE 83 C Smith 10-10-3 M Rangey 5-4 Berkland Lad, 3-1 River Leven, 3-2 Red Bess, 5-1 Ficher, 12-1 Copper Cable

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRABERS C Wesdon, 7 winners from 16 namers, 43 8%. R Lee, 8 from 24, 33 3%; J Old, 8 from 26, 30.8%; N Teiston-Cavles, 7 from 30, 23.5%; G L Moore, 6 from 26, 23 1%; 1 Forsier, 4 from 20, 20.0%. 30, CS.37a, b.L. Moore, o sont 20, co 17a; r rosses, 4 mon 20, co 17a; 30CKEYS: S.R.;n. 4 moses from 11 mbe; 36.4%, D.Leshy, 3 from 13, 23.1% M.A. Fitzgerád, 7 from 31, 22.6%, P.Hide, 5 from 23, 27.4%; N. Kithansson, 7 from 38, 18.4%; J.R. Kamaraja, 5 from 34, 14.7%

3.45 TJH GROUP LINGFIELD GOLD CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,442: 2m 3t 110yd) (5)

3 1312 SPRINTFAYRE 86 (6.51 J Long 9-11-2 A knuer (7) 4 -22P RACASET'S CWER 36 (F.6) C Weedon 7-10-3 M Richards 5 801P EQUITY'S DARLING 31 (8.00.5) D O'Bren 5-10-0 P Hote 11-8 Tickerty's Gift, 11-4 Spridtages, 9-2 Rechaet's Owen 7-1 Spring To Glav 10-1 Equaly's Darling.

4.15 OPAL MAIDEN CHASE

1 F338 AMBER SPARK 8 (85) 0 Candolfo B-11-10
DEBONARY DUDE N Henderson 7-11-10
3 3-32 NORMARANGE 15 (87) 0 Gressell 7-11 10
4 PULS OFFICIAL STATE 11-10
5 1-4P PULMBRUGE 15 (67) P Charmers, 9-11-10
6 005- ROMALITO 3058 M Blassiand 7-11-10
7 OURP THE WAYWARD BISHOP 25 0 Serviced B-11-10 J A McCarthy 7-4 Normarange, 9-4 Arriber Spark, 3-1 Deboner Dude, 12-1 Oneotes. Romalifo 16-1 Plumbhodge, 33-1 The Wayward Bishop

4.45 HBLB BULL INFORMATION SYSTEMS LTD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(\$2,443: 2m /1) (1/2)

1 4031 MBL MOUNT 24 (8.5) 1 McGovern 7-12-0 M Batchelor (7)
2 0-51 RED (18HTER 16 (8) J Did 8-11-8 G Upton
3 4634 SHAMAGORE WARRIOR 21 (8F) 5 Mellor 5-11-7. N Mean
4 P/40 5 STORBAY SESSION 21 N Horison-Davies 7-11-7. C Meande
5 5305 ROSS DANCER 9 J Moore 5-11-5 J Magee (3)
6 -20P NORDIC SPREE 26 G L MOORE 5-11-5 M Polity
7 P231 ROSSICEN RRDGE 15 (5) C Westion 6-10-12. M Richards
8 F000 THAT OLD FEELING 22 (8) J Wills 5-10-1 D Galazyner
15 SUPREME LUISION 8 (5) John Berry 4-10-0 N Willemston
10 FP10 UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D Gardotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D GARdotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D GARdotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D GARdotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D GARdotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D GARdotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D GARdotto 6-10-0 N UPHAM RASCAL 45 D GARDOTTO N UPHAM RASC

11-4 Red Lighter, 4-1 Millimoud, 9-2 Roskeen Bridge 8-1 Hordic Spree, 10-1 Shormy Session, 12-1 East Bold, Shanagore Wantor, 14-1 others

5.15 EMERALD INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE ()3: 2771 TTUYU) (c)

30 BIG STAN'S BOY 98 C Brodes B-11-2. N Williamson

P. DEPRESS AGAIN 7 M Haynes 5-11-2. N Williamson

R-0 MR ROBSTEE 86 A Chambertain B-11-2. O Sortness (5)

5 PEACE NATIATIVE B4 K Vincent 5-11-2. M A Pizzgerald

COUNTRY HOUSE J ON 6-10-11 G RUDON

GO QUISTAGUIAY 90 J Madies S-10-11 P Healey (3)

WINSKY WILMA R Curts 5-10-11 D Moors

DIANSFOLD DOLLY P Windowsch 4-10-3 L Aspel (3) 5-4 Country House, 3-1 Questionary, 5-1 Big Start's Boy, 8-1 Whisky Wilma, 10-1 Express Agent, 16-1 Peace Installate, 20-1 Others

WOLVERHAMPTON

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 8.30 Cold Steel,

7.00 BURNS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (£2,580 1m 11 79yd) (8 runners) ,380 ITM 1/ 990) (8 (MINIERS)

-0.0 (RINUS MAGIC 10 & Alcion 49-10

2-330 (AAZE 51 (B) Mas 6 (Actemp 5-9 5

5-03 SOUNDS LEGAL 18 P Franc 49-5

60-3 BIG RAMO T 7M Reputated 38-5

500 (ROMUNISTA D'OR 144 G Ham 38-5

-242 (JORAN 24 (BH) C Homelan 38-5

-35 (CARLERROV 14 H Albary 38-0

8-634 WMUNDORN 14 C Albar 38-0 A raiding a
D Holland 8
JF Egan 5
J Courne 4
S Downe 7
D blickeown 2
R Ffrench (7) 1
Martin Duryer (3) 8

GOING, STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

8-11 Zonna 7-, Windborn 6-1 Crackerbox, Bag Barrig 10-1 Sounds Legal, 16-1. Hazel 50-1 other: 7.30 CHORISTER CLAIMING STAKES

(£2,580 1m 4l) (10) 5 4 Ergin J. Imadu. 9-1 Howelly 6-1 In The Band 7-1 Or Edger 8-1 Fresh Fruit Bails 10-1 January 12-1 others

8.00 HARTSHORNE MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED STAKES (£2 580 2m 46vd) (6)

NOTEARI 59 (G) & Hollingheat 6.9-7 344- PARADISE NAVY 106 (B.D.F.G) C Egenton 5.9.7 2. 3.44 PARADISE NAVY 106 (B.D.F.G) C Egenton 5 9 2 Sophie Mitchell (5) 4 500 SECRET SERVICE 14J (F) C Thornton 5 9 7 Disclosum 5 Sec. 48 MONTECRISTO 10 of 6,6 F Guest 4 8-11 Dane O'Neill 1 5 5222 RADIOMA KINDERS 50 (DE R Brujarar 4 8-11 J Brammill (5) 2 Sec. 48 9-4 Section Smarter 5 Cifference Range 11-4 Routen 4-1 Rendom Knothess, 12-1 State Reproces 11-1 Rendomination

Blinkered first time

HEREFORD, 3:10 Sulf Here: 3:25 Mondaye: 5:30 Kontucky Gold LINGRIELD PARK: 3:35 Ewar Bord NEWCASTLE: 2:15 Papa razz: UTTOXETER: 3:00 Cont. DiEstimori Gamylongh WOLVER-HAMPTON: 9:30 Night Hampton;

8,30 CHESTERS HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £3,483: 71) (7)

9.00 WHITE HEAD SELLING STAKES (£2,580: 6f) (13)

1 SUTU LITTLE BERRY TO (1917 S) FORMS OF THE TOTAL STORMS AND STORMS IN THE STORMS IN

9-2 Hoh Majeste, 5-1 Bold Anstocal, 7-1 Little form 8-1 Margarithuse Anne. Lochon, 10-1 Hannah's Uster, 12-1 others. 9.30 TOMS HANDICAP (£2,580: 1m 1f 79yd) (13) 1 210- ANGEL FACE 74 (G) P Enuss 4-10-0 ... J F Egan 7 2 00-4 ETHBART 11 (F.G) (C) M Heaton-Blis 6-9-12 A Clark 11 3 4EM 4 VENUCE BEACH AND C Brooks 5-9-10 ... J D Smith (S) 12 4 6123 CHAOLEIGH LANE 15 (C,G) A Multipoland 5-9-10

D McKeown 13 5 3105 SWEET SUPPOSIN 11 (V,CD,G) C Days 6-9-9 Jo Hungaro (7) 6 Ja Hannson (7) 6
1431 SUGA HAWK 14 (CD.G) F Actor 5-9-7 F Actor 5-9-7
14-23 DRAGONJOY 14 (V.C.BF.G) N Literodes 4-9-3 D Griffiels (5) 5
12-00 OBELOS 24 (V.F.) Mics S Witton 6-9-3 S Writton for 1
15-0-36 BOLDON TOUCH 52 (C.D.F.G) D Cosgrow 5-9-3 M Rimmer 3
15-04 RIVAL BID 14 (Y.CD.F.G.S) Mis N Macadiny 9-9-1 J Quarte 9
1000 LOCH STYLE 22 (C.F.G.) R Haltechead 4-9-12 F Lynch (3) 10
100 LOCH STYLE 22 (C.F.G.) R Haltechead 4-9-12 F Lynch (3) 10
100 LOCH STYLE 22 (C.F.G.) R Haltechead 4-9-12 F Lynch (3) 10
100 LOCH STYLE 22 (C.F.G.) R Haltechead 4-9-12 S Darro Official 2
1400- BACKHAMDER 10J R Phillips 5-9-6 S Drowne 4 9-2 Suga Haris, 6-1 Chadholgh Lane, 8-1 Ebbaat, Hever Golf Eagle, 10-1 Dragonov Sweet Supposin, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS THAMERS: W. Jarvis, 8 winners from 22 numers, 36 4%; 6 ingram, 6 horn 22, 27 3%, M. Johnston, 46 from 202, 22 8%. Lord Huntingdon, 18 from 63, 21 7%, R. Guest, 8 hoso 41, 19.5%, B. Smart, 6 from 32, 18 8%. JOCKEYS: M Rimmer, 6 womers from 29 Indes, 20.7%; M Dwyer, 4 norn 22, 18,2%; J O'Reilly, 3 from 17, 17,6%, W Ryan, 5 from 29, 17,2%, Dane O'Neill, 6 from 36, 16,7%, D Holland, 12 from 85, 14,1%.

TOMORROW RUGBY LEAGUE Stones Super League Leeds v Oldham (3.0) London v St Helens (6.35) Salford v Castleford (3.0) Sheffield v Parts (3.15) Wigan v Halifax (30)

First division Second division Carliste v York (3.0)
Hunslet v Leigh (3.30)
Prescot v Doncaster (3.0)
Rochdale v Lancashire Lyrix (3.0)

Courage Clubs Championship Second division Newcestle v Nottingham (3 0) Fourth division south

Welsh League First division Ebbw Valle v Dunvant (2.30) Angle-Welsh competition Group D

Bonymaen v Rotherham (2.30) ...

Camberley v Charlion Park (3.0)

HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Surbiton v Old Loughtonians (at Sugdon Road, 230). First division: Stourport v Oxford Hawks (at Kudderminster School, 230).

2 30)
ASWHA CUP: Pitth round: Cheimstord v
Canterbury (12.45). Crimicon Ramblers v
Aldridge (2.0): Doncaster v Woking (2.0);
Hightown v Trojans (12.30). Joseph v Ottor
(12.0). Stoogh v Leicester (12.0): Suffon
Canada Life v Cheam (11.30); Wimbledon v
Citton (1.0)

AEWHA PLATE: Fourth round: Chiltern v Harron, City of Portsmouth v Camberley, Decade Ramblers v Reading; Driffeld v Aldershot and Farmern: Leoninster v Yale and South Gloucs, Poymon v Springfield; Sevenoalies v York, SI hes (Cambridgeshire) v Bath. v Bath.
HOME NATIONS YOUTH TOURNAMENT:
Under-16: Wales, v Scotland (9 30), England vireland (11 30) Under-18: Scotland v
Wales (1 30), England v Ireland (3.30) (all all Millon Keynas)

OTHER SPORT

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: BCAFL Champlonship Game: College Bowl XI: Loughborough Aces v Tarannau Aberystwyth (et Saltron Lane Stadium, Leucester 1 30)

BASNETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham v London (7.0); Chester v Shelffeld (6.0), Crystal Palace v Worthing (7.0) National League: Men: First division: Mid Sussex v Westminster (3.0), Ware v Oxford (4.0), Second division: Derby v Slough (6.30); Shelffeld v Northempton (4.0), Swindon v London (4.0) Women: First division: Shelffeld v Northempton (2.0). Tharnes Valley v Rhondda (2.30) Second division: Play-offs: Shelffeld v Northempton (2.0). Tharnes Valley v Rhondda (2.30) Second division: Play-offs: Semi-final: Liverpool v Tyne and Wesr (1.0) (CE HOCKEY: Superleague pley-offs: Group A: Manchessev v Ayr (6.0). Group B: Bazingstoke v Shelladd (6.0)

LACROSSE: Shephends Friendly Society League: Premier division: Heaton Mersey v Cheadle; Stockport v Boardman and Eccles. Laneashine Cup: Final: Heaton Mersey A v Old Wacomans A. Stockport Cup: Final: Mellor A v Norbury SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Swindon v Coventry (6.0).

TABLE TENNIS: English champonships (10) Bretter Sternish (20).

TABLE TENNIS: English championships

Particoli, volumente English Champersones (al Bigittori), VOLLEYBALL: Nebonal League: Women: Parst division: London Malory v Orongton (130); Repoble Liverpool City v Essex Estomans (12.45), Achteombe Guildford v Smoke Free Birmingham (2.30), Manchester United Sallord v Eritannia Music City (2.16).

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL

Nicolas Anelka, the French boy wonder, will not, after all make his debut for Arsenal at Southampton; his ankle is still troubling him. With Merson out and Wright suspended yet again, it could be a rare chance for the promising Paul Shaw to join Dennis Bergkamp up front, but Ray Parlour should return. Lee Harper will make his debut in goal after John Lukic was ruled out with a poisoned toe. Vince Bartram returns from loan at Wolverhampton Wanderers to sit on the bench.

DERBY COUNTY

Every season it seems that a side apparently safe for most of the campaign suddenly falls into relegation trouble. Derby

are just four points away from the bottom three after conceding ten goals in their previous two away games. They face a struggling Everton at Goodison Park this afternoon. Igor Stimac has a knee injury and Dean Sturridge is suspended. "We have four more away games and are looking for at least three points from them,"
Jim Smith, the manager, said. RH

ASTON VILLA

Villa's erratic form this season, ranging from pretty good to rank bad, is endangering their chances of securing a coveted Uefa Cup place, the only target left open to them. Mark Draper, the midfield player, is as mystified as most by the lack of consistency but still reckons Villa can qualify for Europe again. "It's difficult to know what the reasons are," he said. "Perhaps it shows the nature of the Premiership, with so little to choose between the sides. There's

time, though. No need to panic yet." RK

EVERTON

Everton continue to walk a fine line with injuries as the transfer deadline looms. "We've got a couple of weeks to do something," Joe Royle, the manager, said. "We

do want to add a squad player or two, because if we had any more injuries we would be struggling." Terry Phelan and Paul Gerrard return, with Southall return. ing to the bench, but Joe Parkinson and Claus Thomsen are doubtful. Michael Ball. Richard Dunne and Graham Allen come into the squad.

BLACKBURN ROVERS

The errant players who were asked to leave a VIP lounge at Chellenham racecourse on Thursday will escape censure from Blackburn, who see it as a minor incident. The players were not asked to leave the course, which showed that it was not a serious incident, and there will be no internal inquiry," a club statement read. Chris Sutton was named as being at the races when he was in Blackburn, receiving treatment for a glandular problem which rules him out of the match today.

LEEDS UNITED

It is unlikely, but Leeds are beginning to talk about a Uefa Cup place. "If we can sneak up a couple more places and teams above us win the cup competitions, you never know." Lee Sharpe said this week. Brian Deane may be going into Europe anyway - Marseilles and Le Havre are both reportedly interested. Leeds have made an offer of a three-year, E500,000 contract. After 11 months out with a knee injury John Pemberton is hoping to

CHELSEA

Chelsea's defence without Franck Leboeuf tends to ship water, as we saw on Wednesday at Upton Park, and the France international seems sure to be missing again. So will Ruud Gullit, who is out for the rest of the season with an ankle injury. But Roberto Di Matteo, who sat out the West Ham game, will surely return and Mark Hughes, who scored as substitute, will start. This means no place for Gianluca Vialli, who took his goal well on Wednesday, but seemed below his best.

LEICESTER CITY

With Matt Elliott, Ian Marshall and Steve Guppy all ineligible for the Coca-Cola Cup final the game against Middlesbrough, their Wembley opponents, today is not quite the dress rehearsal it appears. All three will feature today while Kevin Poole deputises for Kasey Keller, who plays for the United States against Canada

tomorrow. Victory will take Leicester to the

42-point mark originally targeted by Mar-

tin O'Neill, the manager, to avoid

COVENTRY CITY

Amid the gathering gloom at Highfield Road, Darren Huckerby shines like a beacon. Since he was allowed to depart Newcastle United in November - one of Kenn Keegan's last, and probably most fiddish. acts - his pace, power and seven-goat hard have provided Coventry with a glimpse of hope. Tomorrow, he returns to St James' Park. "All I ever wanted was to be given a chance to show what I could do," he said. have no regrets about leaving. It's great playing first-team football

LIVERPOOL

It is hard to comprehend that only a lenient referce prevented Steve McManaman from being suspended this week. The Liverpool forward was booked on Monday and the usual three points for the offence would have taken him through the 21-point disciplinary barrier. But David Elleray deemed his retaliation against David Batty worthy of only a two-point caution. Liverpool will be unchanged as they look for a victory that will keep the pressure on Manchester United. DM

MANCHESTER UNITED Roy Keane completes his two-

match suspension today. Oth-erwise, with Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes getting a clean bill of health, and Pallister and Giggs back after missing the Sunderland debacle, Alex Ferguson has a full squad to pick from for the first time this season. "It's going to be a nightmare picking a team," he confessed yesterday. Butt, who has not played since January 1, seems certain to be among the substitutes and likely to be involved, with an eye to FC Porto next Wednesday. PB

MIDDLESBROUGH

The players drank champagne after the 1-0 home defeat on Wednesday to Stockport County (they staggered into the Coca-Cola Cup final 2-1 on aggregate), but

return next week.

the memory will seem rather flat if they lose at Leicester today. Middlesbrough have taken just two points from their past ten away games. In order to be safe they probably need to win their remaining five home games and trust that George Carman, QC can retrieve the three points deducted by the Premier League.

NEWCASTLE UNITED

There has been tension at St Ginola. Ginola does not see eye to eye with his manager and will leave at the end of the season. But Ferdinand, too, is in trouble. Having come on at half-time at Anfield last Monday he limped off ten minutes later.

game in Monaco next week.

James' Park this week between Kenny Dalglish, the manager, and Les Ferdinand and David "Les thought he was fit, we didn't and we were obviously right," Dalglish fumed. Ferdinand is now doubtful for the Uefa Cup

NOTTINGHAM FOREST Ian Moore is likely to begin his Forest career as a substitute against Liverpool this afternoon after his £1 million transfer from Tranmere Rovers. Dave Bassett,

the general manager, has described the 20year-old as one for the future. In contrast, Bryan Roy appears to have his best days at the club behind him. He was fortunate to avoid a fine after showing dissent at his substitution at Blackburn on Tuesday and has been told to decide whether he intends to stay or leave.



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Wednesday may still be feeling the pain of the FA Cup quarterfinal defeat on Sunday, but at least they have found someone to help to ease aching limbs. The Owls have appointed Hilary Barber, a massage therapist. "Hilary will be dedicated to maintaining the physical wellbeing of Wednesday's on-field personnel," a club statement explained. David Hirst has already received help from the masseur, and is hoping to be fit enough to face Manchester United, who were once interested in signing him. DM

SUNDERLAND

After the morale-boosting vic-tory over Manchester United last Saturday, the consensus is that Peter Reid's side are within three wins of safety and they visit Chelsea tomorrow aiming to repeat the 3-0 victory at Roker Park in December. But his players have scored only ten times on their league travels this season, collecting just two points from their past seven away games. Reid, has rebuffed rumours that he and his assistant, Paul Bracewell, will replace Joe Royle at Everton this summer.

HOW THEY STAND

<i>i</i>	Th.		Goal	Last five	
1		Pts	_ diff	lge games	
Manchester United	29	57	+24	WWDWL	:-
Liverpool		54	+26	WWDLW.	٠.
Arsenal	, 30	54	+23	DLLWW :	- 12
Newcastle	28	48	+19	WWW.L	:**
Sheffield Wednesd	ay 29	48	+6		÷.,
Aston Villa	29	46			:·
Windbladon	27	-44		- DWDLD.	
Chelsee	28	43	+3.	WIND.	
	30	40	· -7	LWWWD	ŧ.
f eicester	28	37	-5	LWWWD,:	-
Tettenhem	28	35	-4	LDL EAR	7,
	28	33	. +2.	* WEINDUP	
Evertool	29	- 33	-75	· MOLDL -	÷.
Derby	29	-32-	13:	WDLWL	×
Sunderland Covertry	30	32	-15	LLLWL.	-
Coverny	30	30	÷ -13÷	ַ בוסבטסב	£.``
West-Ham	28	<u>-28</u> -	-12	TIMIM -	7
Molliocham Forest	30.	28	21-	DWI-D-	Ξ.
Southampton	28	: 26	g-	LIDWOD :	۶.
falledestrough.		. 22	s12.,	WOLLW	÷
T. Carrier Laborator	Market .			ي أو أو أو الماطور	-

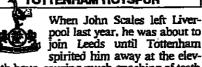
f Middlesbrough, deritated three points

SOUTHAMPTON

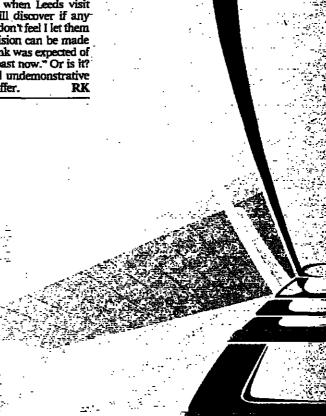
The 0-0 draw at Leeds ended Southampton's unusual record of having scored one goal in every away Premiership game

this season. Despite dropping one place, Graeme Souness, the manager, pro-nounced himself pleased with the point, and the third clean sheet in four games. Robbie Slater is available after international duty with Australia, but Jason Dodd, recently returned after two months away, is missing again with a knee injury. Van Gobbe completes a suspension.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR



enth hour, causing much gnashing of teeth at Elland Road. Today, when Leeds visit White Hart Lane, he will discover if any bitterness lingers. "I still don't feel I let them down." he said. "No decision can be made in two hours, which I think was expected of me, but that's all in the past now." Or is it? The quiet, charming and undemonstrative Leeds fans may beg to differ.



Having taken three points out of 27 on their travels. West Ham begin three successive matches on the road by visiting Villa Park. Relegation threatens unless

there is an improvement, but can they get away with it? Mark Bowen, their defender, insists they can. "I can't see any problems," he said. "We will get out of trouble. We are a quality team." Bowen, though, will not be around to help. He has agreed to follow Tony Cottee to the Far East after agreeing a

If the Wimbledon players were downhearted by their failure to reach the Coca-Cola Cup final, it did not show on the training ground. Robbie Earle kept an appointment

to train young players, while most of the first-team squad took only one day off instead of the two that they were offered. Paul Heald, the second-choice goalkeeper, had his gloves thoroughly warmed, after spending most of Tuesday evening using them to dry the match ball ready for Vinny Jones's long throw-ins.

Reports: Brian Gterwille, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock, Statistics: Julian Desborough

ABITI FIRE, LIGHT STREET, STRE



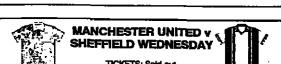
ASTON VILLA v

TICKETS: Seats available

WEST HAM UNITED 10-YEAR RECORD: 4-0, --, 0-1, --, --, 3-1, ---, 3-1, 0-2, 1-1. **HOW THEY LINE UP**

ASTON VILLA (probable): M Bosnich, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehlogu, D Hughes, G Southgate, A Townsand, I Taylor, M Draper, D Yorke, S Milosevic.

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Miklosko, L Sealey, T Breacker, J Dicks, S Bilic, M Rieper, P Ferdinand, K Rowland, 1 Bishop, J Moncur. F Lampard, S Lazaridis, S Potts, 1 Dowle, J Hartson, P Kitson, H Porfelo, S Mean.



TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, 4-1, 1-1, 0-0, --, 1-1, 2-1, 5-0, 1-0, 2-2

R van der Gouw.

HOW THEY LINE UP MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmelchel, G Neville, D May, G Pallister, R Johnsen, D Irwin, D Beckham, N Bult, R Giggs, E Cantona, A Cole, O G Solskjaer, K Poborsky, B McClair, P Scholes,

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, I Notan, L Briscoe, D Walker, D Stefanovic, R Blinker, O Trustfull, S Oekes, P Atherton, G Whittingham, S Nicol, B Carbone, A Booth, D Hirst, R Humphreys,

LEADING GOALSCORERS

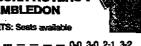
20: A Shearer (Newcastile United). 18: I Wright (Arsenal). 15: R Fowler (Liverpool). 14: D Yorke (Aston Villa). 13: F Ravanelli (Micriesbrough) L Ferdinand (Newcastle United). 12: O G Solskjeer (Manchester United), M Le Tissier (Southampton), 10: D Bergkamp (Arsenal), C Sutton (Blackburn Rovers), S Collymore (Liverpool), E Ekoku (Wimbledon). 9: D Dublin (Coventry City), S Claridge (Leicester City).

CHAMPIONSHIP BETTING

1-2: Manchester United. 2-1; Liverpool. 12-1; Arsenal. 25-1; Newcastie United. 50-1; Cheksea. 66-1; Aston Villa. 80-1; Wimbledon. 150-1: Sheffield Wednesday. Odds supplied by Ladbrokes.



BLACKBURN ROYERS v WIMBLEDON



10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, --, --, --, 0-0, 3-0, 2-1, 3-2. HOW THEY LINE UP

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry, G Le Saux, K Gallacher, J Wilcox, P Pedersen, W McKintay, H Berg, G Flitcroft, L Bohinen, N Marker, P Warhurst, D Duft, I Pearce, G Dodle S Galan.

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, V Jones, C Perry, D Blackwell, R Earle, O Leonhardsen, E Ekoku, M Gayle, N Ardley, M Harford, D Holdsworth, P Fear, B McAllister, P Heald.



10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 2-2, 0-3, --, --, --, --, 4-0, 4-0, 3-0. HOW THEY LINE UP

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): S. Histop, W. Barton, J. Beresford, D. Batty, D. Peacock, R. Lee, P. Beardsley, F. Asprilla, R. Elliott, D. Ginola, K. Gillespie, S. Watson, L. Clark, P. Albert, J. Crawford.

COVENTRY CITY (from); S Ogrizovic; P Teiter, G Breen, D Dublin, A Eviushok, M Hall, K Richerdson, G McAllister, P Ndlovu, D Huckerby, E Jess, W Boland, B Borrows, A Ducros, D Burrows, J Filan.



TICKETS: Sold out . 10-YEAR RECORD: .--, .--, .--, 0-0, 1-3, 4-0, 1-1, 1-1, 2-1.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, S Carr, D Austin, C Wilson; J Edinburgh, C Calderwood, J Scales, S Campbell, S Nethercott, D Anderton, J Dozzelf, A Sinton, E Sheringham, R Rosenthal, S Iversen, LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn, R Molenear, D Wetherall, G Keily, G Halle, L Radebe, C Palmer, L Bowyer, I Rush, L Sharpe, A Dortgo, B Deane, A Yabosh, T Harte, M Ford, M Jackson, M Beeney.

HOW THEY LINE UP



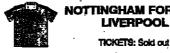
EVERTON v DERBY COUNTY

10-YEAR RECORD: --, 3-0, 1-0, 2-1, 2-0, --, --, --, --, --,

HOW THEY LINE UP EVERTON (from): N Southall, E Barrett, D Unsworth, D Watson, T Phelan, G Stuart, P Rideout, D Ferguson, N Barmby, P Gerrard, C Thomsen, J Parkinson, M Hottiger, C Short, M Branch, M Bail, G Allen B Demand

DERBY COUNTY (from): M Taylor, G Rowett, P McGrath, C Deilly, I Stimac, J Laursen, L Carsley, S Plynn, D Powell, C Powell, A Asanovic, P Trollope, R Willems, A Ward, P Simpson, M Gabbiadini, R Hoult,

NOTTINGHAM FOREST V LIVERPOOL



10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 2-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-1, 1-1, 1-0, --, 1-1, 1-0. HOW THEY LINE UP NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, A Fettis, D Lyttle, Al Haziland, C Cooper, N Jerkan, S Chettle, S Pearce, D Philips, C Bart-Williams, S Germini, C Allen, I Woan, K Campbell, D Saunders, P McGregor, B Roy, S Blatherwick, S Guinan, P van Hooijdonk.

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, J McAteer, S i Bjornebye, M Wright, D Matteo, B T Kvarme, S McManaman, J Barnes, J Recknapo, R Fowler, P Berger, S Coffymore, P Babb, S Harkness, N Ruddock,

TOMORROW CHELSEA V SUNDERLAND



HOW THEY LINE UP CHELSEA (from): N Colgan, F Grocias, P Parker, D Petrescu, E Johnson, S Minto, T Sinciair, S Clarke, A Myers, C Burley, J Monts, R Di Matteo, M Nicholis, D Wissi, G Zola, G Vialli, M Hughes, P Hughes

SUNDERLAND (from): L. Perez, G. Hall, D. Kubicki, R. Ord, A. Melville, D. Kethy, P. Bracewell, K. Ball, M. Gray, C. Russell, M. Bridges, P. Stewart, J. Multin, J. Erikssor, D. Preece, D. Withams, L. Howey, K. Hieselverg.



LEICESTER CITY V MIDDLESBROUGH

10-YEAR RECORD: --, 0-0, --, 2-1, 4-3, 2-1, --, 2-0, --, --

HOW THEY LINE UP LEICESTER CITY (from): K Poole, S Grayson, J Watts, S Walsh, S Prior, M Elliott, S Guppy, J Lawrence, M Izzet, N Lennon, G Parker, S Taylor, S Campbell, S Wilson, J Marshall, M Robins, E Heskey, S Claridge, P Hyde.

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): M Schwarzer, N Cox, N Pearson, G Festa, C Fleming, C Hignett, P Stamp, Emerson, A Moore, C Blackmore, Juninho, F Ravanelli, S Vickers, M Summerbell, B Roberts.



SOUTHAMPTON v ARSENAL

TICKETS: Sold out



10-YEAR RECORD: 0-4, 4-2, 1-3, 1-0, 1-1, 0-4, 2-0, 0-4, 1-0, 0-0. HOW THEY LINE UP SOUTHAMPTON (Irom): M Taylor, A Neison, S Charlion, C Lundekvam, R Dryden: J Magliton, N Maddison, M Oakley, M Le Tissier, M Evans, E Ostenstad, R Slater, E Berkovic, F Benefit K Monkou, S Besham, D Beasant.

ARSENAL (from): L.Harper, R.Parlour, M.Keown, A.Adams, S.Marshall, N. Winterburn, P. Vieira, S. Hughes, D. Platt, D. Bergkarnp, P. Shaw, i Rankin, S. Morrow, I Selley, M. Rosa, R. Garde, V. Bartram.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

10.45pm BBC1 Match of the Day (highlights including Nottingham Forest v Liverpool) 11am Sky Sports 1 Goals on Sunday

3pm Sky Sports 1 Chelses v Sunderland (iive) The official internet site of the FA Carling Premiership

is at http://www.fa-carling.com/

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FOOTBALL: CATWALK STROLLS ABANDONED IN QUEST FOR FAST ROUTE DOWN WEMBLEY WAY

Model goalkeeper poses a challenge

surrounding Mat-thew Le Tissier's inclusion in the England team against Italy finally calmed. the more astute analysts began to question another of Glenn Hoddle's selections for the World Cup qualifying game. Should the coach, they wondered, have chosen lan Walker in goal?

A better alternative, given his Wembley experience, was David James. The Liverpool goalkeeper has consistently performed well this season and yet has still to take that final step off the bench at international level, even in the absence of David Seaman. At 26, James has emerged from some turbulent times to establish himself at Anfield. As a goalkeeper, many judges — Gordon Banks and Joe Corrigan among them -

believe he rivals Seaman as the No I in the country. England, James says, is his next great ambition, but he admits to a certain amount of frustration at not yet being offered an opportunity. "I really want to play for my country and every time I go there believing I can get in the side.

he said. "In a way, it is frustrating being behind David Seaman; you look at him and can't picture a better goalkeeper. He does everything so naturally, with no frills. But in other ways it is not so frustrating because he is a goalkeeper to learn from. There is nothing to say I can't be a better goal-

keeper than him. When he missed the Italy game, I wanted to play, but it was a tough call for Mr Hoddle. He had his No I out and had to choose between three others. In the end, he went for lan because he had been involved over the past 18 months and knew the team, which was fair enough."

James is, as his assessment of the England situation suggests, an articulate, intelligent man. His conversation is littered with phrases not automatically associated with the language of the dressing-

instance, speaking about the time, early in his is at pains to stress his

DAVID JAMES

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

By David Maddock

Anfield career, when he was out of the side and Tim Flowers was lined up as a replacement, he was faced, he said, with one of those defining moments in life. "Such moments are those times when destiny calls," he said. "It is a fact of life one has to deal with." Note "one", not

There is a certain sophistication to David James, starting with his appearance. It helps that he has a physique of such impressive presence that the house of Armani came calling for his services. He briefly strolled the catwalks in their designer clothing, but now shies away from the suggestion that he can extend his modelling career. "It was fun and I just did a few days. That did not get in the way of my

football," he said. "We have ten games left and we are challenging for the title so I must put all my energies into that. If people say I wasn't taking football seriously enough by doing modelling, they were totally wrong, but I want to be seen as a serious professional and I think distractions like that are not such a good thing at this stage of my

If there is a common theme espoused by goalkeepers, then it is the idea that they should be perceived as serious footballers. Perhaps the cliché about them all being mad niggles away. Although James

professionalism, there is little doubt that he has a certain fraying at the edges of his character that belits the common perception of his chosen

His language, so expressive, sometimes careers off at puzzling tangents, as if he is sometimes thinking so fast that he finds it hard to get it all out. He admits that he is a selfcritical character, constantly sifting through the fragments of his performance. Sometimes, as against Newcastle United last Monday, such eccentricity is brought onto the

By his own testimony, he was "terrible" in that match, a judgment not made easier by the presence of Hoddle. Ever the perfectionist, he claims to have identified problems in his mental build-up to the game and resolved them accordingly. He also believes that one bad game should not

sway the England manager. "Goalkeepers can make mistakes, but it is consistency that is the real test. They were the first goals I had let in at Anfield this year. If you are going to throw in three goals, then it is better to do it in a game when you score four.

There has been talk of pressure now because of my performance and the forthcoming England game, but the only pressure I am under is self-induced pressure. I invariably criticise myself before anyone else can manage it."

It is easy to forget that he is only 26 and made most of his mistakes for Liverpool at an age when goalkeepers are usually learning their trade in the lesser teams. Now his consistency and ever-increasing maturity will surely bring him the one ambition he has yet to fulfill.

'I want to be like Peter Shilton, but I'll have to play until I'm 50 to beat his caps record," he said. "What isn't unrealistic is to be England's first black goalkeeper. I'm not saying it's a major political ambition, but I am aware of it and, if I can influence young-sters in any way, then I'm glad

Game boy ban, page l



Hateley's second instalment adds up for Rangers

BY KEVIN McCARRA

A CLUB will go to great lengths when Old Firm supremacy is at stake. Rangers have stretched across the Continent and reached into the nast in their attempt to shore up a squad that has been bombarded by injury. With their trip to Celtic Park. tomorrow in mind, they have, for the second time, signed Mark Hateley.

Rangers agreed to buy out his contract with Queens Park Rangers. Hateley, however, is far from being the only forward coveted by the Ibrox club after an extremely meek performance in the 2-0 defeat by Dundee United on Wednesday, Attempts to buy Alessandro Melli from Parma continued yesterday.

The player, who has also had spells with AC Milan and Sampdoria, may have lost his youthful élan, but he did score for Parma when they won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1993 and, at 27, there are hopes that he can yet recover his early effectiveness. His arrival at Ibrox, though, is in question.

Melli is out of contract in the summer and Parma therefore risk losing him without compensation should he then move abroad, but the club is believed to be seeking about £750,000 for him at the moment. It is possible, too, that the player may prefer to wait a few months, when the proceeds of any deal would go solely

Further frenzied thumbing of the

Ibrox contacts book is suggested by rumours that they are eager to repatriate Allan Johnston, one of the two Scots at present with the French club, Rennes. The midfield player scored a hat-trick against Walter Smith's team while with Heart of Midlothian last season.

In order to sign him. Rangers would have to agree a fee with both Rennes and Hearts, since Johnston would be returning to the United Kingdom within 12 months of his departure. Given the complexities. Rangers are extremely unlikely to have Johnston or Melli available for the meeting with Celtic.

Given their manouevres, the club will be accused in some quarters of desperation, but there are occasions

Second division

(—) *Blackpool v Preston (12 0) (21) Breutford v Burntey (22) Bury v Gillingham (23) Chesterfield v Wycombs

when panic is a suitable response. Smith has been reduced to wondering whether he has the manpower available to defend a five-point lead and so win the Bell's Scottish League title for the ninth consecutive season.

The list of injuries is agonising for Rangers, even if its length makes it tedious in recitation for outsiders. In summary form, established players such as Stuart McCall and Paul Gascoigne will continue to be absent for a while yet, although Richard Gough, the captain, may be fielded this afternoon. Hateley is needed because Rangers' stock of forwards is

almost exhausted. Celtic, startlingly beaten at Kilmarnock on Tuesday, cannot scrape

announced by Rangers, but they are still concerned over Paolo Di Canio, who damaged a hamstring in the Old Firm Tennents Scottish Cup-tie ten days ago.

Whatever the personnel, Celtic hope to retain the mood of their 2-0 Cup victory, when the self-destructive anxiety shown in previous Old Firm matches was shed. After a week of upheaval that left the relative positions of the club unaltered. Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, was amused to reflect on the histrionic

coverage. "There's been a million headlines written and a lot of tripe talked, but nothing has changed. You can never allow yourself to get carried away by the fickleness of football," he said.

Ownership gives English clubs home advantage

talians are casting covet-ous eyes at English football. It is not that we have Zola and Ravanelli, Di Matteo and Vialli, because Juventus or AC Milan have wealth enough to buy them back any time they choose. Rather, it is the concept of an Englishman's home being his castle, the fact that leading clubs here own, and therefore can develop and market, the cornerstone of their wealth. the stadiums themselves.

ه ي الاعلام

In Italy this weekend, Juventus are closer than ever to pulling out of the Stadio Delle Alpi and moving to either Bologna or Reggio Emilia, almost four hours' drive away. The problems with Delle Alpi are that the stadium, built for the 1990 World Cup finals, was considered soulless from the very first. It was also seven miles from the centre of Turin and, from Gianni Agnelli, the club's patron, down, the new home comforts were despised. Perhaps Millwall supporters who preferred the shabbiness of Cold Blow Lane to the New Den, have an affinity with

The Juventus argument runs deeper. It is about money. Delle Alpi, councilowned, eats up £5 million per year in maintenance and Juventus have never been happy paying more than £2 million per season in rent and losing millions more in advertising revenue that goes to the city council. Likewise, Torino, the Serie B team who share the stadium, are disaffected with life in the white elephant up in the hills.

Local council elections are in the air, so there is much posturing. Walter Veltroni, the Italian Deputy Prime Minister, has called for a privatisation programme so that clubs can buy and redevelop the grounds in which they traditionally play. In Turin, that could mean Juventus returning to the dilapidated Stadio Comunale and Torino going back to the even more decrepit Filadelfia

The Juventus move, should it come about this summer, has been given the blessing of Italy's league. Maybe, as Roberto Bettega, the chief executive of Juventus, maintains, the club really would prosper away from its foundations. Juventus would fill any arena, anywhere in their homeland.

There is also renewed speculation this weekend about Everton leaving Goodison Park, their home since March 15, 1892. It was on that day that Everton, in dispute with their landlord, vacated Antield and so the landlord formed his own team - called Liverpool. But would they really move? Since time in Merseyside football began, the two clubs have been separated only by the length of Stanley

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

Park and moving them now would be unimaginable. Nevertheless, Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, has encouraged talk of alternatives, of the options either to develop and enlarge Goodison Park even further or of moving out of the city to Knowsley or Kirby.

It is no more than an idea. Johnson has expressed his readiness to meet the Goodison for Everton campaigners: the talk is in the air while the club maintains its financial stability based on the ownership of the ground.

The English, of course, are not easily moved. Middles-brough shifted the sands of time by vacating Ayresome Park for the Riverside Stadium two years ago and are prosper-ing while the old docklands are rebuilt around them.

Bolton Wanderers, Sunderland and Derby County are moving at the end of this season, moving from homes occupied for the better part of a century, with Derby even persuading supporters to pay £35 for each engraved brick in the new stadium.

thers are inseparable from their roots. Next month, Aston Villa celebrate 100 years at the ground developed on the site of Sir Thomas Holte's vegetable garden and fishponds at Villa Cross in Aston. A decade ago. Villa did consider moving, but, mindful of the ingrained sentiment of Villa fans, they stayed, they rebuilt magnificently and they thrive.

Blackburn Rovers, through the persistence of Jack Walker, likewise eschewed the allegedly cheaper alternative of relocating to land offered by the borough council and instead fore down housing a Ewood to rebuild where Walker had always known his club to reside.

This feeling permeates our football. The game, the history, the belonging are part of what is now the business. The Italians watch the money flowing in. They see English clubs using the collateral of the very ground on which they exist - and they

together anything like the bad news COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FOOTBALL

England double act catches Park's eye

BADMINTON

By DAVID MILLER

PARK JOO BONG, acclaimed as the world's finest doubles player, carties the weight of English and, to a degree, British hopes on his slim shoulders. The newly-recruited coach was last night running his experienced eye over England's latest pair of international promise, Chris Hunt and Donna Kellogg.

With the careers of both Joanne Goode and Julie Bradbury interrupted by pregnancy, Steve Baddeley, the elite director of the Badminton Association of England, decided to form a previously untried young mixed doubles pair. Hunt and Kellogg had fulfilled expectation at the Yonex All-England Open championships this week by reaching the semi-finals of

their event Park, nine times an All-England champion and a gold medal-winner at the Barcelona Olympic Games, has had little time to work with English players, yet is optimistic, in spite of the present broad lack of talent in British ranks. The English game has mental strengths and plenty of

aggression," Park said yester-

day, "but what we have to

work with is flexibility, antici-

pation, in movement about the court and there must be improvement in technique at the Park is happy with the attitude he has seen in training at the squad centre at Milton Keynes, where he has now set up home, though he had been unimpressed, upon

appointment, to learn that not

all national players had at-tended on a full-time basis in a sport still adjusting to profes-sionalism. Park himself is adjusting: from player to coach and from Korean to English language and culture. He smiles easily, but you sense that lean frame carries a streak of Clint Eastwood at his meanest. No bad thing. He considered it possible

that medal-winning prospects could be developed in time for the Sydney Olympic Games of 2000 in women's doubles and mixed doubles. "Donna Kellogg is promising, but her physique needs strengthening." Park said. Baddeley yesterday ex-plained the reasons behind the strict attitude that he has

introduced within the squad regarding fitness and a ban on He acknowledged being termed a disciplinarian, that he had had Coca-Cola poured over him by one disgruntled lady, but insisted that his was

the correct route. In the light of Britain's and England's present decline, none will doubt him. It is certain that in Park he will have found someone of like

The progress of Hunt and Kellogg has alone sustained home interest in the present championships. In the first round, they beat the seeded Thomas Stavngaard and Ann Jorgensen, of Denmark, followed by victories over Chinese and then Russian opponents, all without the loss

of a game.

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated * denotes all-ticket FA Carling Premiership (1) Aston Villa v West Ham (2) Blackburn v Wimbledon (3) Everton v Derby . . . (4) Leicoster v Middlesbrough (5) Manchester Utd v Shelfield Wed (6) Newcastle v Coventry . . . (7) Nottingham Forest v Liverpool (8) Southampton v Arsenal (9) Tonerham v Leeds

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Third dyssion (—) Albion v Queen's Park FA CARLSBERG VASE: Semi-finals, first teg: Banstead Ath v Whitty; Guisborough Town v North Femily PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora v Nam County, Deveronvale v Peterhead, Eighn v Lossemouth, Fort William v Buckle Thistle, Friaserburgh v Hunty, Ferth v Clachnacuddin, Rothes v Cove

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: From Manage Premier division: Finn Harps v Dundal i7 301 Skgo v Bray (7 30) BASS RISH CUP Quarter-finals: Citionville v Crusaders, Glentoran v Coagh, Loughgalf v Coleratie, Omagh v Limavady Rid

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashiord v Halesower: Burton Albion v Chelmslord; Cambridge City v Salsbury. Crawley v Gloucester: Gravesend and Northfleet v Nuneation; Grasley v Baldock: Hashings v Chelherham; Merthyr v Satinghoume. Newport AFC v Ning's Lyon; Sudbury In v Dorchester; Worcesfor City v Atherstone. Middland division: Bedworth v Hordery Town; Dudley Town v Rothwell, Eveshom v VS Rugby; Grantham v VS Rugby; Grantham v VS Rugby; Grantham v Tamworth. Moor Green v Corby; Raumds Tv Schill Borc Shephed D v Beston; Stourtinge v Bliston. Sutton Codifield Town v RC Wawnet. Southern division: Bashloy v Weymouth: Dardord v Yate; Freeham v Ficher London; Forest Green v St Leonards, Hevent v Buckingham Town; Margale v Newport loW, Tonbridge Angels v Clawdon. Waternoville v Chederfort, Weston-super-Mare v Fleet I; Witney v Cirencester Town Weston-super-Mare v Fried 1; Wirney v Cirencester Town
ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Harrow. Behop's Storford v Purfaet; Bromley v Hichir. Chorisey v Staines: Dagenham and Recturdge v Carshalton; Dulwich v St Albans, Gray's v Kngstonen; Oxford City v Herndon; Sutton Umled v Enfield; Yesding v Heybridge; Yeovil v Boreham Wood. First division; Barton Roves v Carvey Island; Billericay v Uxbridge; Chesham v Bognor Regis, Hampton v Aldershol Town: Maxienhead Unted v Basingstoke, Marlow v Croydon; Molesey v Workingham. Theme v Tooting and Mitcham; Walton and Hersham v Abringdon Town; Whyleleate v Leyton Pennant. Worthing v Berkhamsted Second division: Barlong v Metropottan Police: Bracknell v Collier Row and Romidod: Cheshuri v Wernbley; Dorlung v Beddord T. Edgware v Wiffarm; Egham v Leighton Town; H Herngstead v Horisharrt. Hungerlord v Leatherhead; Ware v Tilbury; Wernhoe v Windson and Eron. Third division: Aveley v Tring; Clapton v Braintee; Homoratine v East Thurnos, Northwood v Epsom and Ewell; Sauthali v Flackwell Heatift, Wingate and Finchley v Wealdstone ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: David Lloyd v Massey Ferguson, Handrahan Terribers v Worcest-cro, Highgete v Scutham, Feralworth v Avechurch: Richmond Swrifts v Bilston Community College, Wellesbourne v Cov-entry Sphinc; West Midland Fire Service v Shrifey Cup: Semi-finals: Coleshel v Kings Health; Melt KA v Knowle

TOMORROW

kuck-off 3.0 unless stated.
• denotes all-ticket. FA Carling Premiership Chebea v Sunderland (4 0) Nationwide League First division West Bromwich y Birmingham (2.10) Second division * Bustof Rovers v Bristof City (1.0) Third division

Leyrin Orient v Fulham (12:0)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE. Southern di-

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Celtic v Rangers

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First divisions Workington v Bradford Park Avenue. GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Intel Cable-Telly Film Town.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemans v Deny (3 15); Cork v Shelbourne (2.0); UCD v St Patrick's Athlone (3.15) FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Doncaster v Croydon (af Amithorpe Welfare Ground, 20); Melwell v Ibeston (at Risher Fc, 20) Postponed: Wembley v Southampton.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern di-vision: Bradicid v Shelfield Wednecday, Garsacod St. Helens v Wowarhampton; Stourport v Notis County. Southern di-vision: Berkhamsted v Wimbledom; Leyton Chent v Longford

UNISOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Boston; Altreton v Runcom: Bember Bridge v Marine; Bishop Auckland v Witten; Budon v Colwyn Bay; Chorley v Lancaster; Emley v Winstord; Frickley v Lancaster; Emley v Winstord; Frickley v Galseley; Prowaley v Winstord; Frickley v Gansborough. First division: Ashion United v Hornogale Town; Bradhord Ph. Ave v Droyladen; Eastwood Town v Congleton; Farsley Celtic v Netherfield, Gretra v Worksop; Lancoln United v Legis; Mediock Town v Workington; Siccissbridge PS v Flotten: William v Warmigton v Curzon Ashion: Williey Bay v Atherton LR WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Conrithien; Carderbury v Hythe; Cray v Withstable Town, Crockenham v Turbridge Wels; Furness v Sneppe; Greenwich w Slade Green: Lordswood v Ramsgate
LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division; Amersham v Woodford; Beecons-

LONDON SPARTÁN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham v Wuodiord; Beaconsfield SYCOB v Harefield; Harnwell v Cocklosters; Haringey v Isington St Marys; Härngdon Boro v Brinsdown: Russigo Manor v Brook House; St Margaretsbury v Bartingside; Waltham Abbey v Croydon. MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedford v Arlesey, Buggleswade v Letchworth; Buckongham Athletic v Toddington; London Cotney v Hoddesdon, Potters Bar v Lengind; Royston v Milton Keynes, Welwin Garden v Harpanden.

Hoddesdon, Potters Bar v Langrord; Royston v Metro Reyner, Welwyn Garden v Haipenden.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE; First division: Carnizndgo Und v Westord (11 0); Chelsee v Ansenal (11.0); Gillingham v Charlon (10.45); Loylon Orient v Ipowich (11 0), Norwich v Mithwei (11.0); Pottmouth v Fulfram (11 0); Southernd v Queens, Park Rangers (11.0), West Ham v Tottenham (11 0); Second division: Colchester v Brentlord (11.0); Luton v Bournemouth (11 0); Resading v Bristol Cay (11 0), Sected (11.0); Southerngon v Brogiton (11.0), Swendon v Wimbledon (11 0).

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier divisions; Endsleigh v Didcot; Farthord v Highworth; Knitbury v Breester; North Leigh v Brackley, Wartage v Shortwood Cup: Semi-linal, first leg: Casterton v Swendon Supermarine FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE; First division: Bedington Terrens v Durston Federation; Crook v Chester-le-Street; Durham v Stockton; Morpeth v Conset; Murton v Sashern Red Star, RTM Newcoste v Tow Law, Shidon v West Auckland; South Shelds v Biffingham; Whichem v Easnigton.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE; First division; Hartley Wintney v Corintham Casualis; Netherne v Ash; Reading Town v Westfield; Sonchurst v Godaming and Guiktiond, Welton Casualis v Bediont.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Chadderton v Trafford; Citherne v

v Bedlont.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Chadderton v Traiford; Citheroe v Blackpoot Rovers; Darwen v Nantwich Town; Gloscop North End v Salford; Hoker Old Boys v Burscough; Maine Road v Esstwood H; Newcastle Town v Macsley, Permith v Atherion Collienes; Rossendale v Bootle; St Helens v Kadgrove; Vaunhall GM v Prescot Cables.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division; Bowers v Sawtorlogeworth; Concord

A SENIOR LEMBOR PERMITTI CONCORD Rengers v East Harm, Eton Manor v Besidon U, Ford United v Satiron Walden, Hullionge Sports v Greal Walcoring AFA SENIOR CUP: Semi-finals: Civil Service v West Wickham; Crouch End Vampires v Lensbury

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill T v Darlaston, Cradley Town v Twidale. Gomal A v Wednesfield. Hill Top R v Stoupport S, Lye Town v Btonwich S, Stallord T v Ludlow T; Welsall Wood v Erdngshall HT. Wolverhampton C v Westfield; Wolverhampton United v Malvem T

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JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town v
Newmarket: Clacton v Whodram;
Feltenhamv Galleston, Sonam v Feltechwe
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Lowestolt: Warboys v Helstead; Wisbech v
Stowmarket; Woodbridge Town v Warbon
IELEGRAM AUTOSEY LEAPIJE: Fire pt. JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Pirst di-vision: Lymington v Gosport; Torton v Wintborne Youn; Aerostructues v Bourne-mouth, Brockerthurs v Cowes Sports: Christichurch v Downton, East Cowes v Bernerton Health; Petersfield v BAT; Ryde Sports v Andover; Thatcham Town v Portsmouth.

Portsmouth.

URLISPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Si Neots;
Evnesbury v Bourne; Ford Sports v Mirrlees
Bladdstone, Kempsion v Cogenhoe; Long
Buckby v Spaiding; Samford v
Desborough, S and L Corby v Northampton
Spencer; Stotlold v Holbeach; Wellingborough v Nawport Pagnel; Wootton v
Potion

Potion
UNIVET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First
division: Horsham YMCA v Arundel, Mile
Oak v Eastbourne Town; Pagham v
Halisham; Peacehaven and Telscombe v
Three Bridges; Portifield v Burgess Hill;
Ringmer v Oetwood. Selbdean v Scuttwick.
Selsey v Langney Sports; Shoreham v
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Halesowen H, Plesall V v Rocestler,
Pershore T v Boldmero St M, Ruchall O v
Barweit, Sancheel v Chessiown; Wilerhall v
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NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper Town v Amold; Brog Town v Hallarn. Deneby v Pickerng: Hatfield Main v Glasshoughton Wettare. Hudmall Town v Portletrad Cots, Ossett Albion v Ashtield; Seby v Armihorpe Wettare, Sheffield v Malitby MW; Thackley v Ossett Town

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SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First
division: East Bernet OG v Old
Parmiterlans; Norsemen v Polytechnic, Old
Actionists v NetWest Bank, South Bank v
Cwi Service SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Notisborough v Albanian; Parkfield v Wandsworth Borough; Ulysses v Southgate County; Witan v St Mary's Coll. ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Certhusiens v Brentwoods; Cholmolelas v Lancing, Repionians v Foresters OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division. Cardinal Manning OB v Old Kingsburtens; Letymer OB v Old Ignatians; Old Aloysians v Old Meadonians; Old Hampdonians v Old Vaugherians; Old Tenkonlans v Giyn OB Vaughanans; Old Tentsonlais v Glyn OB SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Quarter-final: King's, Chiester v Wolverhampton GS (11:01. FA Premier Lague Linder-16 Trophy: Semi-final: Northumberland v West Midlands (130). Wrennel Trophy: Preston v Rossendele, Goodhand Trophy: Worksop v Grimsby. Yorkshire Trophy: Laeds v Doncaster. Menchester Cup: Semi-final: Wigan v Oldham Ayresome Park Cup: Semi-final: Stockton v Hartispool. Inter-town challenge matches; Shelield v Chesterfield; Newcastle v Barnsley. England's decision to opt for speed at scrum half sparks questions about selection policy

Healey plans to put on motor show Gomarsall's exit

By JOHN HOPKINS

THERE IS a red blob deep in the corner of Austin Healey's right eye, a splash of colour as vivid as a poppy in a cornfield. What is that, the England scrum half was asked? Healey raised his right hand cautiously. "Oh, that." he said quietly. That is a burst blood vessel. did that about three weeks ago. It doesn't bother me."

Healey, 23, who won his first cap as a replacement against Ireland last month, is as matter-of-fact about this temporary disfigurement as he is about revealing that he does not read. "I have not got one," he said when asked to name the book by his bedside.
"I have not read a book ever. Well, I suppose I read the odd one at school and I have flicked through a few since, but I have not read one from



cover to cover. I am far too hyper to sit still. I know the last film I saw, though. Will Greenwood and I saw Jerry Maguire last Sunday evening. It was great. Made me want to go out and become an American sportswriter.

Healey has dark, curly hair, a level gaze, the accent of a Northerner, as befits a man who went to school in The Wirral and played his rugby for Waterloo and Orrell before moving to Leicester. His open face has not yet acquired any permanent battle scars. His humour is dry.

At Leicester, Bob Dwyer, the Australian-born coach, lik-ened him to David Campese, the gifted former Australia wing, and said: "Austin has real talent." For Jack Rowell, the England coach, Healey "is a very exciting package".

These are plaudits to turn a young man's head were it not for the fact that Healey seems down-to-earth. His confidence, which is considerable,



Healey will begin his first full international today in Cardiff, where Edwards, his hero, once held court. Photograph: Peter Nicholls

chappie, knock me down and watch me bounce up again" sort that scrum halves generally have. This is the case with Andy Gomarsall, the man Healey has dislodged from the England team. Rather, it comes from a deep belief in

himself and his ability. These characteristics were present in his decision to remove himself from consideration for Ireland earlier in the season and the explanation he now gives is clear and mature. I asked myself a question: if I was sat in the Irish changingroom about to play England and all the irish lads were banging their heads together, would I be able to say 'let's go and beat the English? And I exceptional speed, having run

would not have been able to. I would have played with passion, but there is no point in going to play for a team you're not motivated for."

It is appropriate for a man bearing the name of a racy sports car that he has roared as quickly to the forefront of the game in England as Robert Howley, the scrum half, did for Wales. Healey's passing is not as quick as, say, Robert Jones's, but he is maturing in his decision-mak-ing and he is learning all the time. "Bob [Dwyer] said my game against Toulouse in the European Cup was the best he

100 metres in 10.9 seconds as a

I would be the first to admit that at the start of the season I was not the best box-kicker or passer of the ball," Healey said, "but you have to look at it from a wider perspective. Rugby is about reading the game and doing the right thing at the right time. Now I can pass and kick like a scrum half but I can also sprint like a sprinter and that is perhaps a new aspect to the team." Exceptional athleticism.

speed and a physical style of play were among the attributes of the two scrum halves that Healey admires above all others. The first is Dewi Morris, the long-time

England scrum half before and during the 1995 World Cup. "Over the past ten years, he has been the best England scrum half. He has put some confidence in me this year whenever he has seen me and has been a big help to me. I saw him last when we played Sale. He didn't say much after the game because we had

amount of respect there." The other is the legendary Welshman, Gareth Edwards, and there is a symmetry in this because Healey is the most

beaten them. He was compli-

mentary during the game, though, and for a change I

didn't try and hit him and he

didn't hit me. There's a certain

wards. He has the poise and balance of a gymnast that Edwards had, too, "That try of Gareth Edwards against Scotland where he chipped over, grub-kicking the ball, and dived into all that mud," Healey said, remembering Edwards's famous try in 1972. That was a bit special.

It will be a significant moment for Healey to play this afternoon in Cardiff. where Edwards scored so many tries. He grinned at the prospect. That's a good trivia question. I can ask my grandkids who played scrum half for England in the last game at Cardiff Arms Park? They'll probably say Dewi

finds Bracken out in the cold **ROB ANDREW**

ack Rowell gave me two genuine surprises this week: first, he invited me back into the England squad: then he dropped Andy Gomarsall for the game against Wales today. My situation will last for this week only: Gomarsall, however. has a whole career ahead of him and I had thought that Rowell would retain him after his five international appear-

There has usually been a consistency to Rowell's selection policy and having come so far, I thought he would stick by the courage of his convictions and put out an unchanged side - rightly or

The problems with Gomar-sall at scrum half were self-evident long before the defeat by France, yet Rowell ignored these and stuck by his man. There was a collective burden of responsibility for the loss two weeks ago, but the accusatory finger appears to have been pointed at just one

Has Rowell given in to his critics about Gomarsall, me included? There was a sense. too, in the France game, of Rowell giving in to the plea of some commentators (not me this time) that England should go hell for leather from the first minute. So they did and look what happened Many observers have been pressing the claims of Austin Healey at scrum half. Sud-denly, he is in and Gomarsall

Personally, I would opted for Kyran Bracken. Whether he is out of favour or out of fashion, I am not sure, but, of the three, Bracken is the better-balanced performer

showing consistent form. Incredibly, he is not even in the squad. So what of Healey? I do not

share the concerns about his pass. From what I have seen of him, the service he provides is more than adequate. His kicking abilities are not as inconsistent as are those of Gomarsall. Neither are they

recently-converted threequarter, a player who brings the unexpected, probably because he is a scrum half still playing, in a way, like a wing Give him an inch of daylight and he is away.

Healey's cover defence is extraordinary, but he is not in the side for that aspect. A scrum half at international level is there, above all, to organise a side. For all his successful few minutes in Dublin, he will find the step up hard.

It is relatively easy playing behind a pack as dominant as Leicester's every week. The tries that Healey scores are nearly always from broken play. There will not be the

same room today. Moreover, Healey is up against Robert Howley, the best scrum half in Britain. Howley's problem, like that of



Robert Jones before him, was that for several years now Wales have lacked the front five to compete against the top teams. It could well be Wales's undoing again, because if England have one area copper-bottomed in selection terms, it is the tight five. It is here that the triple crown can

It is history that England wasted the chance of going for a grand slam. How England respond to the France result is important, It is to be hoped that the basic about playing for 80 minutes, not 55 then mentally packing up for home, is ingrained. Tactically, England have veered from a policy of subdue and penetrate, which they did success fully against Ireland and Scotland, to all-out attack. I feel it is important, especially away from home, to revert to the former. Obviously, the restoration

of Mike Catt, after Paul Grayson's withdrawal, gives him an unexpect-'Incredibly, ed chance to show that he can he is not even

in the

squad'

anced gamewho should have

learnt from his three games before Christmas about the need for accuracy in his kicking game - he must make the most of it, though the combination of Catt and Healey will surely have the

Welsh defence guessing. There will be 50,000 Welsh supporters hyped to the eyeballs. The National Stadium is a cauldron of emotions at the best of times. Wales's last ing work, especially if they can deny England a triple crown, provides them with a

great incentive. I was lucky enough to win in Cardiff, in 1991 and 1995, but these are the only two occasions that England have won there since 1963. Wales are always up when England are in town, but on this occasion England should have too much firepower all round.

In terms of winning the championship, England would be unwise to expect any favours from Scotland in Paris, especially in mid-March and with a grand slam beckoning for France. Scotland won there two years ago, I know, but lightning does not strike twice. In saying that, I hope the same applies with England after the result two

Wales takes record-breaking Jenkins to heart Not Jenkins. Not only has he

TODAY. Neil Jenkins will earn his fiftieth cap for his country. At 25 years and eight months, he is the youngest player of any nation to reach this landmark so soon. Thirtyfive of these caps have been at standoff half, where he received mixed reviews. This season, he is playing at full back and looking more thoroughly at home in a Welsh jersey than

Jenkins may not have been born to greatness, but he is well on his way to achieving it. He is already established in the record books. He has scored 534 points for Wales. This places him behind Michael Lynagh, who scored 911 points, Gavin Hastings, who retired with 676 points, and Grant Fox, who scored 620, in the all-time rankings of pointsscorers. He recently overtook Hugo Porta's mark of 530.

With 91 points in eight appearances this season and with international matches coming thick and fast

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in the modern era, the list will soon have to be revised. The previous highest Wales scorer was Paul Thorburn with 304 points, which had superseded Phil Bennett's modestlooking 166. Thus, Jenkins is already Wales's greatest goal-kicker.

Week after week, the Pontypridd crowd revel in his technique and craftsmanship at stand-off half. which he could not, for some reason, refashion for his country. For his club, he has yet to play a bad or indifferent game. More, he ensures victory by his own boot or tactical capability and determination - or allows others to be the beneficiaries.

Welsh League this season, which brings his total for the six-year lifetime of the competition to 1.576 — naturally, a Welsh record, too, He also ensures that his club, Pontypridd, are high scorers. They have collected 67 tries in 14 league outings

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GRAB A FREE

the Roundhead who

made his mark despite a Cavalier tradition

Jenkins has scored 254 points in the well within their own half. way. They move moodily on.

Gerald Davies looks at

There is a danger in assessing Jenkins simply in terms of statistics. He moves the scoreboard, not a crowd, yet, if he is not a Cavalier, he does take chances; if he is thought more of a Roundhead, he is not a stickler for the playing disciplines. A lot of Pontypridd's tries stem from

He is no swashbuckler of the kind all Welshmen wish in their dreams. The matter-of-fact stand-off halves who are not rubbed with stardust and who are elevated to the national team are often broken in spirit by the constant carping that comes their

consistently conquered the odds on the field, but also the criticism that has flowed his way from the terraces. When he was in the team, there were those who wished him out; when he was excluded, the same people wished he was in. This disfavour, not to say hostility, was largely a domestic matter. He is highly thought of

outside Wales. Jenkins has a marvellous footballing sense that is increasingly obvious now that he plays full back for his country. He has responded so much to this challenge that, at this stage, he would be the first choice in that position for the British Isles in South Africa this summer. His tenacity will also ensure that he challenges for his favoured position as the team's fulcrum.

There has been a transformation in the way that he is now perceived. At long last, people are responding warmly to him; he is thought of with

affection, which has been a long time coming. Yet this is at a time when he might so easily have become the focus of criticism. Two errors that might have been attributed to him may have led to costly losses this season. Elwood's capricious garryowen shaved the post at Cardiff for an untakable ball that gave Ireland the lead they did not thereafter relinquish. At Parc des Princes, the cruel trajectory of the bouncing ball. followed by a second unpredictable kickback - which Jenkins could not have anticipated - led to France

extending their second-half lead. Empathy, the sense of disaster shared, not sympathy, with its patronising distance, was the response in Wales to Jenkins's dilemmas. He has proved himself to be a big man, in heart and indomitable spirit. After winning his first cap in 1991, he is no overnight success, but he is proving more durable than the fly by nights.

France in harmony with three wise men

FROM PETER BILLS IN PARIS

THE spring sun shone in Paris this week, streaming through the stained-glass windows of Notre Dame and lighting with charm the pavement cafés ... just as it did 25 years ago, almost to the week. when a France side produced

the performance of a lifetime. A warm, springlike day at Stade Colombes — the former venue for international rugby in Paris - an England penalty kick at goal and hope in the hearts of every Anglais on the terraces. The kick flew narrowly wide and England prepared for the restart. As they did so. France launched a moment of sporting genius.

The try that Pierre Villepreux conjured that day from behind his own posts remains an extravagant signature on 25 years of international rugby; it was crafted by exquisite technique. Passes were timed to eliminate defenders, the ball was shown then retained and opponents were confounded by the flow

of the play. France's victory, 37-12 in a final appearance at Colombes, contained six tries, but was important for reasons other than nostalgia. Within that side were three players -Villepreux, Jean-Claude Skrela and Jo Maso - who espoused a theory, players who nurtured and cherished a dream: that they could play winning rugby with style.
This weekend, in their re-

spective roles as assistant coach, coach and manager of France, they prepare a team for the rare honour of a grand slam, the first to be contested by France in Paris.

The coaching chemistry between Villepreux and Skrela was first glimpsed at Toulouse. "When Jean-Claude finished as a player, I asked him to come and join me in coaching, Villepreux said. He knew my philosophy of the game and so he was the natural one to join with me." Under their influence, Tou-

louse dominated French club rugby, winning the champion-ship in 1985, 1986 and 1989. They were without peer. The march of time, though, is



relentless and Villepreux acknowledges how rugby has changed since 1972. "When a player was tackled

with the ball then [1972], it was a mistake," he said. "Today, it is no mistake. Now rugby is really physical, but I believe that tomorrow our game will be played by players able to pass the ball, with a good understanding of the play, show flair and know when to deliver the ball and when to retain it - just like 25 years

Villepreux's ingredient for the rugby of the future is an amalgamation of the philosophy of the players in 1972 and the physical power of the present-day performer. Skrela concurs. "The game

has evolved a lot since our days at Toulouse," he said. Even so, the preparation remains much the same. The rules and form of rugby have changed and so we must adapt our technique, but our type of work, understanding, communication are much as before." Maso, the prince of creative

midfield play in his era, has observed the flourishing Villepreux-Skrela partnership over the years. "Jean-Claude was very happy to have Pierre back working with him; they are old friends, old accomplices," he said. "As soon as we appointed Jean-Claude as trainer, his first wish was to ask Pierre to rejoin him." The wish was, initially, resisted by the French federation, for Villepreux had been persona non grata in the eyes of the authorities for some years. Maso, himself once rejected as a player by the selectors for the heinous crime of having long hair, shrugged at the rejection of Villepreux and advised patience. A year later, the pair were reunited.

Maso regards Skreia as the cornerstone of the coaching staff. Villepreux, he says. brings all his capacity to put words together so well. Maso cast a contented eye over the pair and said: "Each has his quality of generosity towards the other. They are two great players searching for the best possible, most effective game."



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RUGBY LEAGUE: CODEBREAKER CONTINUES TO SET TREND WITH OVAL BALL

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Gillespie ensures that fortune favours Australia

FROM JACK BANNISTER IN PORT ELIZABETH

PORT ELIZABETH (first day of five. Australia won toss): Australia: with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 199 runs behind South Africa

AUSTRALIA took the firstday honours in the second Test match here yesterday, but not by such a wide margin as seemed likely when they had South Africa all but through the ropes at 95 for seven in mid-afternoon. Then came a recovery led by Brian McMillan and David Richardson. who put on 85 in 28 overs, and the wicket of Matthew Hayden in the closing 50 minutes meant that the home side had clawed back a little lost

A little, but not much. because any fielding captain will take a total of 209 as a good day's work for his bowlers and, if Australia get through the first hour this morning, they could establish a stranglehold on the match, as they did in the first Test at.

Johannesburg. The talking-point was the pitch. Hardly any grass was taken off before the start and its appearance convinced both captains that they wanted to bowl first. Mark Taylor was the lucky man and seldom in

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

S Kirsten c Hayden b Gilespie ... 0

M Bacher c Elliott b McGrath ... 17

H Kallis c Blewett b Gilespie ... 0

J Cultima c Warne b Gilespie ... 0

J Cultima c Warne b Gilespie ... 34

W J Cronje b McGrath ... 30

H Gibbs b Galespie ... 0

H McMitten c S R Waugh b Warne ... 55

M Policch libw b Gilespie ... 0

J Richardson c McGrath b Warne ... 47

A Donald c and b Warne ... 8

R Adams not out 55

FALL OF WICKETS 1-13, 2-17, 3-21, 4-22, 5-70, 6-95, 7-95, 8-180, 9-204

press for

win to level

omes

dant

bounced and moved so extravagantly at the St George's

Jason Gillespie's first fivewicket haul for his country was no more than he deserved after making the initial breakthrough with the wickets of Gary Kirsten and Jacques Kallis in his first five overs. both caught close on the leg side off lifting deliveries.

The Australians have studied Kirsten and he has yet to receive a ball of pace in this series from over the wicket. Thus, they deny him room for his favourite off-side strokes and he now lacks confidence. The top order looked frail and so it proved.

Glenn McGrath had Adam Bacher taken at gully and then, seven balls later, forced Hansie Cronje to play on for the third of the day's five ducks. At 22 for four, the home crowd of 12,500 was silenced until Daryll Cullinan and Gibbs rode their luck to reach

lunch safely. Taylor had no support seam bowler and turned to Shane Warne for control while he worked his new-ball pair downwind. It says much for Warne that a shiny ball on a grassy pitch failed to lessen his threat and, once Gillespie had claimed three wickets in as

Facing 13 torrid overs before the close, Hayden edged to Cullinan at slip in Pollock's second over, but Taylor and out in relative comfort.

Sri Lanka India given fine start by Kumble and Joshi By Our Sports Staff

over.

to slip.

THE India spin bowlers, Anil Kumble tempted Campbell to series Kumble and Sunil Joshi, combined to leave West Indies lunch on the opening day of HAMILTON (first day of five. the second Test match in Port

of Spain, Trinidad, yesterday. New Zealand won toss): New Zealand have scored 222 Kumble, the leg-spinner and India vice-captain, reagainst Sri Lanka moved both openers in NUWAN ZOYSA and Muttiah Muralitharan successive overs after he was introduced in the ninth over of the day. Then, three minutes claimed three wickets each as before lunch, Joshi, the left-Sri Lanka dismissed New

day of the second Test match in Hamilton yesterday. Sri Lanka, needing a win to square the two-match series. tied down the home batsmen and only Blair Pocock mastered the bowling in scoring his best Test score of 85 in

Zealand for 222 on the first

286 minutes. Sri Lanka gained an early success when Bryan Young, who scored an unbeaten 267 in the first Test, was run out for four. Horne was dean bowled by Zoysa, the 18-yearold fast bowler, playing a loose shot and Fleming, the captain, fell to a sharp catch in the slips. When a Zoysa inswinger trapped Astie legbefore for nought, New Zea-

land were 100 for four. In the afternoon session, the spinners took over, with Muralitharan extracting significant turn. Cairns was caught by Ranatunga at silly mid-on off Dharmasena and Parore was run out for 25. Pocock's long vigil was ended soon afterwards when he fell to a bat-pad catch off

Muralitharan. Daniel Vettori was deceived by Muralitharan, who dean bowled him for four, and Dipak Patel was caught in the deep as he tried to slog the

same powier. The score was given some respectability by Doull, who hit a brisk 20. Muralitharan finished with figures of three for 43 while Zoysa took three

for 47. NEW ZEALAND: First trinings

B A Pocock c Tilecteratine
b Muraitheren 86
B A Young run out 44
M J Horne b Zoysa 21
S P Fleming c Materiamo b Zoysa 21
N J Aste Bw b Zoysa 0
C L Carne c Renaturga 10 Parore run out Patel c Dharmasena Murattharan

D L Vettori b Aurolemann
D L Vettori b Aurolemann
S B Douil c P A de Sava b Vaas
H T Davis not out Total 222
FALL OF WICKETS 1-19, 2-88, 3-66, 4-100, 5-126, 6-172, 7-172, 8-178, 9-203, 8CWLING, Vass 12-4-1-32-1; Zoysa 18-3-47-3; S.C. de Sive 15-4-36-1; Dinamasena 22-7-39-1; Muralimeran 22-4-43-3; Jayesaurya 1-0-5-0.

sunya 1-0-5-0.
SHI LANKA: "A Renatunga, S.T. Jayasuntya.
SHI LANKA: "A Renatunga, S.T. Jayasuntya.
R. S. Mehenema, P. A. de Shva, H. P. Tille-keratne. 1ft S. Kaluvniherana, W. P. U. J. C. Vasa, N. Zoysa, M. Murelliherain, H. D. P. K. Dharmasena, S. C. de Skita.
Umpirest: D.B. Cowle (New Zeidand) and Mariboob Shah (Pakistan).

PURI ELIZABETH SCOREBOARD. AUSTRALIA: First Innings
M L Hayden c Cutinen b Potiock
M A Taylor not out
M T G Eliot not out

armer, removed Brian Lara

for 14, much to the disappoint-

ment of a 10,000 home crowd.

but only decided to bat after

lengthy consultations between

Courtney Walsh, the captain,

and the team management.

The wicket at Queen's Park

Oval was relaid before the

start of the season and has

been the subject of consider-

India new-ball bowlers.

gained movement and bounce in the early stages, but Sachin

Tendulkar, the captain, soon

turned to his spinners.

Kumble made the initial

breakthrough, claiming Wil-

liams for 18 to a pad-bat catch

at silly point from his fourth

CRICKET

CYCLING

PARIS-NICE RACE: Fifth stage (Coumon of Authorgins to Ventssieux, 197km): 1, T. Steels (Sel) 5th 20min 48ec; 2, M. Cipolini (t); 3, L. Jaibheri (Fr); 4, J.J. Henry (Fr); 5, Capelle (Fr); 6, F. Baldato (ti) all same time. Overalt: 1, Jaialoen 18th 07min 14sec; 2, P. Chenteur (Fr) at 26ec; 3, Steels 26; 4, L. Durtatin (Switz) 36; 5, D. Rous (Fr) 40; 6, C. Moreseu (Fr) 47, 20, M. Sclandri (GBI 1.06)

The second secon

Three runs later,

Prasad and Kuruvilla, the

able debate.

West Indies won the toss,

many overs. Australia were nearly through. Cullinan was dismissed for 34 to a poor stroke to Warne in the gully and then Gillespie bowled Herschelle Gibbs for 31 and had Shaun Pollock leg-before next ball. Richardson wandered out to join McMillan with Gillespie's figures at 14.2-7-32-5, but the pair played as though there were no probIt's Friday,

so it must

be 13 men at

the Stoop

for Offiah

Christopher Irvine

catches up with a man

whose life looks like an

endless book of records

end. In little more than 24

hours, he will collect his MBE

at Buckingham Palace, play

rugby league for London

Broncos at Warrington and

rugby union in a Bedford

shirt at Rotherham. He could

spare only a short time this week before nipping off to a

House of Commons reception.

Life was not so hectic at Wigan.

being back in the London

hurly-burly plainly suits Offiah. He was virtually re-

clusive in his early league

days at Widnes - score the

tries, lock the door and await

the next match. Tries, of

which he has scored 425, an

average of 42 a season in league, still motivate him.

Only a handful for Bedford

partly explains the frustration

that he has felt in his return to

"First, there was the toe

injury; then, there's the way

union is." he said. "You don't

get as many chances to get

over the whitewash. Bedford

are a new team and they're

building. My handling's im-

proved, but union is still very

congested. I don't remember

someone getting the ball on

their own line and going the

length of the field. In league,

It sounds like a marked

man talking; moreover, a

player idly talked about, on

his arrival at Bedford, in

terms of England and British

Isles selection. Offiah, 30, had

forgotten from his days at

Rosslyn Park what a differ-

ence two extra tacklers can

make. Bizarrely, things im-

Steve McCurrie, a league

hooker, at centre, but Offiah is

when Bedford put

there is that freedom."

union after nine years.

Juggling rugby careers and

artin Offiah will set

a record of a differ-

ent kind next week-

Both are phlegmatic and possessed of a well-organised, simple technique. Australia's safest close catchers, Mark Waugh and Taylor, respectively dropped regulation chances from Gibbs at slip, which did not matter, and Richardson when it did, at 153 for seven, with Gillespie the sufferer twice.

The eighth-wicket pair added another 27 before, having hit Warne for one six, Richardson went for another and McGrath took a fine running catch to his left at long-off.

The wicketkeeper's 47 came off 105 balls, with McMillan completing his tenth Test fifty off five fewer balls faced. He and Alian Donald put on 24 for the ninth wicket before the all-rounder picked out Steve Waugh off a rare long hop by Warne and Donald pushed one back to the same bowler.

Matthew Elliott saw the day An unusual incident just before lunch saw Cullinan pull a short ball to Hayden, who seemed to pull off a

spectacular catch at short leg. The batsman stood his ground and Rudi Koertzen, the umpire, confirmed that the ball had struck the fielder's helmet

Chanderpaul and Lara

spent fust over an hour togeth-

er to share 33 for the third

wicket, but Joshi broke the

partnership when Lara edged

to Mervyn Dillon, the 22-year-

old fast bowler who is in his

first season of first-class

cricket. He replaced Ian

Bishop, his fellow Trinidadi-

an, who suffered an injury to

his right thigh in the first Test

in Jamaica. WEST INDIES: First Innings

West Indies gave a first cap

still coming to terms with limited space and oppor-In the six weeks when the seasons overlap, Offiah will on-drive against the spin and be the only player combining the ball spooned to extra both codes. Far from being Indeed, Kumble could have reported on Monday to the had three wickets in three Stoop Memorial Ground, the Broncos' new home, with overs, but Kuruvilla dropped obvious relish. He hobbled Lara at mid-off in his next his way through four matches



Offiah familiarises himself with the Stoop Memorial Ground at Twickenham

for London last year, because of the toe injury. Now fully fit, he is anxious to prove himself at home to St Helens, the Super League champions, tomorrow evening.

Tony Currie, the London coach, said: "He's turned up in very good shape. You can see it in his attitude in training. He's jumping out of his skin. We did sprint moves the other day and the kids tried to take him on. He held them at bay and, when he wanted to go, he went ... he's

After six months without last week, with five minutes to go, all I could think about was of fire, but I'm looking forward to it. What a better way to start."

How comfortably a player can alternate between union and league, only Offiah's experience will tell. The thought has fired his imagination. He describes these as exciting times, especially the prospect of him being reunited at the Broncos with Shaun Edwards, the Great Britain scrum half, whose request at Wigan for a free transfer will be discussed next Tuesday by

the Central Park board. Like Offiah, Edwards sees alongside Offiah would be another fillip for the Broncos, that I'd be playing Saints next who. in spite of having Richweek." he said. "It's a baptism ard Branson on board, still few beyond him.

look to be the poor relations to Harlequins, their landlords, occupying a couple Portakabins at the Stoop.

Offiah said: "There's more pressure on us. We don't want to be seen as a flash in the pan after a good first Super League season. People in London are far more aware of us now. The world club championship this summer is very important. Matches against Brisbane and Canberra will fill the place."

His own target is clear. Offiah, seventh in the all-time league try list, can leapfrog get going. "Against Waterloo too, is in his thirties. Edwards Eric Batten and Alf Ellaby, into third place, with 22 more tries. The record - 796, by Brian Bevan — is one of very

St Helens close to securing Harris

By Christopher Irvine

ST HELENS are more confident than ever of securing the services of Iestyn Harris from Warrington Wolves. Harris. the Wales and Great Britain back, was put on the transfer list at £1.35 million by Warrington last July.

Harris, 20, was not included in the Warrington side for the opening Stones Super League match at Bradford Bulls last night. He has reportedly agreed personal terms with St Helens, who hope to negotiate a cash deal after Warrington's rejection of one involving the exchange of players.

David Howes, the St Helens chief executive, said: "We are looking for a valuation that suits both clubs. The dialogue has never stopped."

Wigan Warriors, who are missing Jason Robinson and Shaun Edwards for their opening match at home to Halifax Blue Sox tomorrow. are hoping that the work permit problems that have delayed the arrival of Paul Koloi, 24, a Tongan centre, can be resolved within two weeks. In their first competitive outing under Eric Hughes, the new coach, Wigan have Craig Murdock at scrum half in place of Edwards, who is wanted by London Broncos. Gary Connolly has recovered

from a knee ligament injury. Kelvin Skerrett is on the Halifax bench for the visit to his former club. The prop signed a contract this week for the remainder of the season. Michael Jackson has overcome a back injury to start in the second row alongside Simon Baldwin, who switches

Salford Reds have already beaten Castleford Tigers this season, on their way to the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semifinals. Tomorrow, Craig Randall and Paul Southern, who will make his first senior appearance for two years after breaking both legs, replace the injured Andy Platt and David Hulme in the pack.

Leeds Rhinos have Wayne Collins, the Australian hooker, one of six new overseas signings, fit again for the visit of Oldham Bears. "With the squad that we have put together, I don't think that the Leeds fans will see any lack of effort this season." Dean Bell, the Leeds coach, said.

in a reverse of th fixture last year. Sheffield Eagles entertain Paris Saint-Germain, winners 12 months ago, but with a new-look, all-Australian team.

SQUASH

Tippett leads new wave

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN LINZ

squash looks set to continue into the next generation on the evidence of the low-ranked women's tournament playing alongside the men's Austrian Open championship here.

S L Campbell o Prasad b Kumblo S C Williams o Dravid b Kumble The semi-finals vesterday featured Chanderpaul not out . C Lara c Azharuddin b Joshi Narelle Tippett, of Brisbane - previ-C L Hooper not out . ously a hefry junior struggling to make Extres (fb 1, nb 1) the grade internationally but now a slimmer, easy moving world No 24 on the senior list, who was far too accomplished for Stephanie Brind, from Kent - and then the remarkable. INDIA: "S R Tendulkar, V V S Learnan N S Sidhu, R S Dravid, S C Gengulv, M Azhanuddin, 1N R Mongra, A humble S Josh, A kununika, B K V Prasid Umpires: L R Barker (West Indies) and S G Randell (Australia) identical Major twins from Orange in New South Wales.

AUSTRALIA'S control of top women's Rodney Eyles, of Australia, facing Dan Jenson in the men's semi-finals, these young women hardly counted as the main event on the all-transparent court that is transfixing huge shopping crowds on the concourse of the stylish

Arkade Centre. However, with Tippett disposing of Brind 9-3, 9-4. 10-8 in 29 minutes and the left-handed Kate Major, ranked No 37 in the world, outlasting the right-handed Emma, ranked No 41, 9-6, 8-10, 9-0, 5-9, 9-2 over 75 minutes, it may have seemed clear even to the unversed Austrian audience which of the women should be returning to Linz With Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, in future at the head of the women's meeting Julien Bonetat, of France, and

SNOOKER

Bond as good as his word

FROM PHIL YATES IN BANGKOK

NIGEL BOND, who makes a habit of virtually eradicated unforced errors as reserving optimum form for the latter stages of the season, required only 82 minutes to whitewash Quinten Hann. of Australia, 5-0 in the quarter-finals of the Thailand Open at the Century Park Hotel here yesterday. Bond, the runner-up in the 1995 world championship and winner of the British Open last April, gave Hann a harsh lesson in how difficult it can be to stop a leading player in full flow as he set up a meeting with Fergal O'Brien or Stephen Hendry, the world champion. Hann, the unexpected conquerer of

John Higgins, the world No 2, and Mark Williams, the Grand Prix titleholder, in the previous two rounds,

he illustrated the gulf in experience between the two.

"Quinten only made one mistake in each of the first four frames and that was enough," Bond, who quickly established a 4-0 lead with breaks of 50, 52, 93, and 74, said: "When I play my best, I know I can beat anybody in the game. I just wish I was a little bit more consistent."

It will be Bond's first appearance in the semi-finals of a world ranking tornament since the German Open in December and the stock of points that it guarantees is a considerable boost in his fight to remain a member of the games top 16 next season.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL BASKETBALL BUDWESSER LEAGUE: Leopards 95
Hernei and Westord 85; Sheffield 100
London Towers 93.
EUROLEAGUE: Mean's elimination round:
Eles Pilsen (Tun 84 Maccab Tel Avw (Isr)
82; Vileurbonne 75 Eshudanles Madrid 71,
Cibona Zagyeb (Cro) 61 Olimpia Ludijana
(Stovental 82; Olympiatos (Gr) 74 Paruzan
Beigrade (Yug) 89; Sastanel Milano (It) 78
Kinder Bologna (IX) 76.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Seartle
106 Minnesotts 92; Dallas 109 Boston 107;
Detros 102 Denver 82; Golden State 101
Clevetand 95 (CT); Phoens: 112 LA Clippers
96; Toronto 103 Sacremento 98 SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Sec-Palace 1. UniteDND LEAGUE: Premier division. Bishop Auckland 4 Lancaster 2 Cup: Third-round replay: Gurseley 0 Colwyn Bay 2 ICIS LEAGUE: Second division: Wivenhoe Cother Row and Romford 3. PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham 1 Shetheld Wednesday 0 CENTRAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Stoke 1 Rudderminster 1 JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEA-GUE: Premier division: Halstead 0 Tip-BOWLS

GUE: Premier division: Haistead o Tiptree 2.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Victory Shield
Under-15 international metch: Northern
Indand 0 England 3 in Bellasti English
Snickes Under-19 Trophy: Quarter-final:
Oxford Coli 1 Weald Coli 3 English
Goodyear Under-16 Trophy. Quarterfinal: Nortion 2, Newall Green 3
LIBERTADORES CUP: Group one: Cerno
Porteno (Par) 2 Guerani (Par) 2: Bolivar
(Bol) 3 Onerte Perolero (Bol) 3 Group two
Naconal (Equ.) 1 Enelec (Equ.) 0. Vetez
Sarsheld (Argi 1 Racing Cub (Arg) 0.
Group threes: Colo Colo (Arg) 0.
Group threes: Colo Colo (Arg) 0.
Group three: Colo (Chiel 2)
Linversidad Carolica (Chiel b; Minervon
(Ven) 1 Miñeros (Von) 0. Group tour
Gremo (Br) 0 Cruzero (Br) 1. Akiaruz (Peru)
1 Sporting Cristal (Peru) 1
FRENCH LEAGUE: Richics 0 Monaco 3
SPANISH CUP: Quarter-finals, second
leg: Celta Vigo 1 Racing Santander 0 (Celta
win 3-1 on aggregate).
Reel Beris 2 (Betts win 4-7 on aggregate) BALLYMONEY: Home International Indoor championships: Scotland bit Ireland
124-118 (Scotland skips first; J Mutricet to
5 Allen 18-29; G Robertson bit S Ademson
23-15; R Corsey bit J Baker 20-16; R
McCulioch test to D Confel 11-23; A
Marshall test to R McCune 23-24; W Wood
bit W Graham 29-11); Ireland bit Wates 129103 (Ireland skips first McCune bit R Weale
23-10; Graham bit P Rowlands 30-12; Allen
bit S Rees 20-12; Ademson lost to J Proce
11-21; Corleit bit M Anstey 34-19). SHEFFIELD SHIELD (second day of four) Sydnay: Teamenta 463-7 dec (J Cox 143, M J Di/lenuto 55, R T Ponting 64, D C Boon 52); New South Wales 220-3 Brisbane: Cueenstand 277 and 194-7; South Austrelie 160 (J D Siddons 82: M S Kasprowatz 5-64). Melbourne: Victoria 205; Western Australia 367-4 (M 'E Hussey 124 not out, R J Campbell 113, M W Goodwin 90).

GOLF AROEIRA: Portuguese Open: Leaders after two rounds: (Great Britáin and Inciend unless stated): 132: M. Jonzon (Swe) 67, 65. 134: W Ritor) (Aus) 68, 66, P. O'Mailey (Aus) 65, 69 138: P. Broadhurst 68, 67; V Philipp 67, 68 138: S Grappessonn (ft) 71, 65, M. James 70, 66 137: J. M. Clazabal (Sp) 70, 87, M. A. Jimónez (Sp) 69, 68 138: R Risceil 69, 69, D. Hospital (Sp) 67, 71, P. Affoct 69, By J. Wade (Aus) 68, 70, M. Dawis 69, 69, E. Barrego (Sp) 69, 70; A. Hunter 71, 68, P. Custic (Switzi 70, 69, M. Roe 68, 71; I. Pyman 70, 69, A. Cejka (Ger) 69, 70; M. Halfberg

(Swel 71 68 P Limbur (Spi 68 71 R Lee 71 68 140, (Garndo (Spi 68 71 M Angler) (Swel 66, 74 J Licented (Spi 68 71 M Angler) (Swel 66, 74 J Licentes (Arg. 71 69 M A Mattin (Spi 70 A Notrona (Fori 67 73 M Goggin (Aus) 1) the A Sandywell 70 To Cora 69 71 J Rhoto (Spi 71 69 S Lufia (Spi 71, 69 E Chipta (Swi 72 68 P Michel 70 to CORAL SPRINGS Florida: Honda Clessic: Leading Instructional scores (United States units. Julico) 67 L Isanen P Starkowski 68 th Managomere (SB) W R Brown 15 Fair (SB) The Starkowski 68 th Managomere (SB) W R Brown 15 Fair (SB) Theorem P Starkowski 68 th Managomere (SB) W R Brown 15 Fair (SB) Theorem P Starkowski 68 th Managomere (SB) W R Brown 15 Fair (SB) Theorem P Starkowski 68 th Managomere (SB) W R Cora 7 Theorem 16 Swell M Motors R Garner R Maal Other British score 75, A Lyte TUCSON, Argona LPGA Chicle K Championship Leading Inst round scores (United States gibics (Saled) 64, L Negmann (Swel 65 t Feet 66 T Green 67 S Steinhauer A Solemann (Swel M Motors 88, K Tachetter I Popper, J Philate D Eggeing T Bearen 75 Andrews (Swel M Motors (SB), H Doscon (Hat 71 th Sheetelan (Swel) & Marcha (Swel 75 Ch) (Kanagomere (Swel 168) (T H Adhodson (Swel 76 F Decomps) (Sch) ROBERAMPTON Gold Cup Leading ROBERAMPTON Gold Cup Leading ROBERAMPTON) Gold Cup Leading Attedison (Sec. ROEHAMPTON: Gold Cup Leading acores: 143, 179 co. 72, 70, 1 Fothes 73, 70, 146: 1, 1, acores: T. M. Sinton 72, 74: W. Dicks 73, 73, 0 Dicks 73, 73, 5 Dicks 73, 73, 5 Dicks 74, 74.

HOCKEY

KUALA LUMPUR World Cup qualifying event: Semi-finals: New 1 Mea 1 Poland 0; Soan 5 New 1, 2 and 1 Mill TON KEYNES Home nations youth tournament: Under 18 England 11 Wakes 1, Keland 3 Subt. or 1 Under 16, Scotland 2 Iteland 2, England 2 Wales 6 ICE HOCKEY SUPERLEAGUE PLAY OFFS: Group A: Manchesier of an indicator B Brown of 5 Basingston () () 5 Basingstore:
PREMIER LEAGUE PLAY-OFF5 Skough 5 Angston 2 Telegraf (Mandon) EUROPEAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Romania 2 Green & Leich Frimania)

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Montreal 3 Boston (): Flonda 5 Vancouver 4; New Jessey 6 Harriod (): Philadelphila 5 Edmon-ton 4 (OT), NY Islanders 3 Tampa Bey (); SI Louis 4 Los Angeles 2 **RUGBY LEAGUE**

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): Sr George 14 Manh, Wumngah 18 AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Adelaide Rams 10 Hunter Mariners 8 **RUGBY UNION** Super 12 tournament

25 Canterbury New South Wales Waratahs: Tries' Manu 2 Pens. Buha 5 Canterbury Crusaders: Try Lifey Pen: Lifey pai Sydneyt STUDENT INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Whish Universities 28 English Universities 17 (a) Cyncred(

BANGNOK: Thailand Open, Quarter-final: N Bond (Eng) by Q Hann (Aus) 5-0 SKIING

VAIL Colorado: Woman's World Cup: Super giant slatom: 1, K Secunger (Ger) 115:73 °C H Gerg (Ger) Imm 16 53sec. 3, M Ew (Ger) 117:01. 4, 1 Manken (No.) 17:70 °F Mashada (Fr) 17:738 °C. Dalloc (Fr) 17:45 Final slandings: 1, Gerg 490pt: 2 Setanger 474 3, P Wiberg (Swer 449 4) Fostmer (m. 365 °C. Emil 248 °C. Manharta 221 Overall World Cup standings: 1, Wiberg (1815) the 2, Secunger 1,294 3, Gerg 1,100; 4 D Compagnom (ft) 87 °C. Kostmer 793 VAIL Men's World Cup: Super giant slatom 1 A Schifferer (Austria) Imm 3/76sec. 2, Stroot (Austria) 13:80 °C. Kostmer (ft) 13:29 °C. N. Aumood (Mor) 13:43 °C. D. Ruthers (US) 13:40 °C. Final standings: 1, Aptiend (Fr) 3:105; 2, J Stroot 333, 3, Schifferer 25:6. 4 H Maier (Austria) 230. 5, Crectina 218:6 L Rus (Nor) 203 Overall

Greeding 218 6 L Klus (Nort 203 Overall

SQUASH LiNZ: Austrian Oper: Merr Querter-finals:
J Bonetat (Fr) bit G Rydring (Can) 11-15,
15-11, 15-6, 15-13, D Jerson (Aus.) bit Z
Jahan (Pak) 15-14, 15-8, 15-9; R Eyles
(Aus.) wo C Rowland (Aus.), Jansher Khen
(Pak) bi P Giegory (Gr) 15-12, 15-14, 5-15,
9-15, 15-8 Womerc Chuarler-finals: N
Topent (Aus.) bit J Hickey (Aus.) 9-1, 9-2, 9-2;
S Brand (Eng) bit N Gaatinger (SA) 1-9, 9-8,
4-9, 9-3, 9-7; K Major (Aus.) bit N Jans
(Can) 1-9, 9-7, 10-8, 9-4, Semi-finals: Tipped bit Brand 9-3, 9-4, 10-8; K Major bit E
Mejor 9-6, 8-10, 9-0, 5-9, 9-2

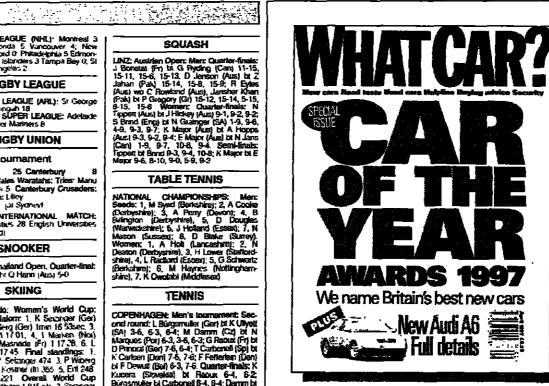
TABLE TENNIS

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Mer: Seeds: 1, M Syed (Berkshire); 2, A Cooke (Derbyshire); 3, A Purry (Devon); 4, B Belington (Derbyshire), 5, D Dougles (Warwackshire); 6, J Holland (Essax); 7, N Mason (Sussax); 8, D Blake (Surrey). Women: 1, A Holt (Lancashire); 2, N Deaton (Derbyshire), 3, H Lower (Staffordshire), 4, R Paditard (Escax); 5, G Schwent; (Berkshire); 6, M Haynes (Nottinghamshire), 7, K Owolabi (Middlesed)

TENNIS

COPENHAGEN: Men's tournament; Sec CONCENTRACE Men's Burgarnatura; Sond round: L Burgarnuler (Ger) th K (Mye) (SA) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; M Damm (C2) bi N Marques (Por) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; G Rabus (Fr) bi P Princesi (Ger) 7-6, 6-4; T Carbornell (Sp) bi N Carlsen (Den) 7-6, 7-6; F Fefferten (Den) bi F Dewist (Se) 6-3, 7-6 Quarter-finals; K (Se) 6-3, 7-6 Quarter-finals; N (Se) 6-3, 7-6 Quarter-fin Kucera (Stovelde) bt Rebux 6-4, 6-2; Burgsmuller bt Carbonell 6-4, 8-4; Cernm bt Fetferlein 6-4, 6-3.

Fetierien 6-4, 6-3.
INDIAN WELLS: Calliornia: Men's tournament: Third round: M Charg (US) bt M
Rosset (Switz) 6-2, 7-5; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt
C Woodruff (US) 2-6, 7-5, 6-1; T Muster
(Austria) bt S Doseriel (C2) 6-4, 6-4; B
Ulimach (C2) bt F Clavel (Sp) 7-5, 7-6, M
Prilippoussis (Aus) bt C Moya (Sp) 6-4, 6-3, B
Black (Zm) bt G Kuerten (B) 6-3, 6-3, 4-6-3,
Berasategui (Sp) bt J Stark (US) 7-6, 6-3, C
Profine (F1) bt M Larsson (Swe) 6-7, 6-2, 6-4
INDIAN WELLS: Women's tournament;
Sami-final; 1 Sprites (Rom) bt A Sánchez
Vicario (Sp) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3



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SPORT'

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SATURDAY MARCH 15 1997

Emotional ties unravelling as tournament reaches crescendo in Paris and Cardiff

Moving moments ignite grand finale

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FAREWELL then, to the 1997 five nations' championship and to Cardiff Arms Park and the Parc des Princes, whose names have become synonymous with the tournament. Farewell to Jonathan Davies. whose sorcery graced the Arms Park on too few occasions, and probably to Will Carling, who twice led victorious England teams there.

The championship has this year become invested with a subtlety and an emotion rare even by its own standards. The twists of fate that have given Ireland a win in Cardiff, the French success at Twickenham and that have earned the away side victory in five of the eight matches so far may well be sustained today. France. meeting Scotland in Paris, are bidding for their fifth grand slam, while England go for the triple crown against Wales in Cardiff — and the championship, should they win and France falter. Throw into the

FIVE NATIONS'



melting pot the evocative farewells to great stadiums should all make for a memora-

The Arms Park is not just pieces of concrete and stone, but a repository of memories, a theatre of dreams. That a superbly appointed ground will rise on some of the same foundations softens the blow, but it will not be the same for those misty-eved folk who can look at this corner or that and remember Gareth's try. or Gerald's, or leuan's.

The Parc des Princes, a younger international stadium than its 113-year-old Welsh counterpart, has been home to French rugby for only 24 years and does not have the same history. Next season, the five nations championship will travel to the north of Paris, to the St Denis suburb where the Stade de France is rising - but who would bet

against an au revoir this afternoon that embraces the first grand slam to be won on French soil?

It is, perhaps, the year for a French rising. Their first grand slam, in 1968, was won in Cardiff, their next, in 1977, in Dublin. The third was at Twickenham in 1981, the fourth back in Dublin in 1987. Logically, 1997 would continue the sequence. Whether a team that has fallen into place around numerous injuries and suspension merits the lasting fame of a grand slam is neither here nor there, yet, if Scotland are to beaten, France must descend from the euphoria that accompanied the 23-20 win over England.

The Scots, on the crest of a one-match revival, won in Paris two years ago and have nothing to lose today. They will attack the fulcrum of the French side, the new half-back pairing of Guy Accoceberry and David Aucagne, and hope that Rowen Shepherd sustains the brilliant goal-kicking form he displayed against Ireland. The only way to play the French is to take the game to them," Craig Chalmers, the Melrose stand-off half, said and, though they would be loathe to offer England favours, his team has the capaci-

Adding piquancy to the occasion is the fact that, after today, there will be no more opportunities to impress those who will select the British Isles party to tour South Africa this summer. There was a strong Scottish presence in 1989 and 1993, not least in providing the captain, and Rob Wainwright has the prospect of following where Finlay Calder and Gavin Hastings went before.

Wales and England will offer greater numbers to the players will be thinking that far ahead. Indeed, England are more likely to be reflecting on what has been rather than what will be. The defeat by France was painful in the extreme and how the they deal with that should provide a clue to the eventual develop

ment of this England team. They trained yesterday without Lawrence Dallaglio. who was confined to his room with a cold. Should he remain incapacitated, then Ben Clarke will play in the back row, with Chris Sheasby added to the replacement bench, but England are not unduly worried on that score. They will be more concerned that their half backs place a proper sense of order and balance upon the game, though in Mike Catt and Austin Healey they have a partnership of explosive, and possibly implo-



Carling, for so long a national institution, contemplates what will be his 72nd, and possibly last, game for England at the Arms Park today. Photograph: Marc Aspland

It is against all expectations that Christian Loader and David Young are propping at all, the former not having played for a month and the latter having been on crutches last week. Not that Kevin Bowring, the coach, wants to see his players in a physical battle. He wants Davies to draw the best from his midfield, though the loss of Scott Gibbs there and, further out,

leuan Evans is a massive Evans is one of those intrigued by how England intend to play this game. There is an assumption that, for all the talk, England will try to grind the Welsh down, to win as they did in 1991 and 1995. Evans questions whether the visiting players truly believe in the fla uid game they are said to seek, or understand what is required to play it successfully which comes back to the perennial question of England's ability to read the shifts and nuances of a game.

If their club performances three days after losing to France are any guide, England's forwards have already cleared away the mental hangover. There is a copper bottomed solidity to the pack that offers a safety net should the backs lose their way and, if Catt's kicking is variable, then

both his centres can help. Jack Rowell, the England coach, has given no indication as yet to being a convert to the regular use of replacement players, but how tempted will he be to bring on Rob Andrew if his team shows signs of stress? How much, in fact, hangs on long-term development, rather than short-term prizes? Jonathan Davies v Rob Andrew and 1985 revisited. That would be the ultimate

CARDIFF TEAMS

WALES N R Jenkins (Pontypridd)

SU HIR (Cardin) A G Bateman (Richmond) N G Davies (Lianeli) G Thomas (Bridgend) J Davies (Cardill) R Howley (Cardill)

C D Loader (Swans J M Humphreys (Cardiff) D Young (Carditl) S M Williams (Neath) G O Llewellyn (Harlequins) M J Voyle (Llanelli) K P Jones (Ebbw Vale)

L S Quinnell (Richmond) Referee: J Dume (France) REPLACEMENTS: 16 W T Procto (Llanelli), 17 P John (Pontypridd), 18 J C Quinnell (Richmond), 19 D L M McIntosh (Pontypridd), 20 S C John (Lianelli), 21 G R Jenkins (Swansea)

ENGLAND

W D C Carling (Harlequins) P R de Glanville (Bath)

M J Catt (Bath) A Healey (Leicester) G C Rowntree (Leicester)

J Leonard (Harlequins) L B N Dallaglio (Wasps) M O Johnson (Leicester)

S D Shaw (Bristol) R A Hilli (Saracens) T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army

BBC1: 2 45om REPLACEMENTS: 16 J C Guscott (Bath), 17 C R Andrew (Newcastle), 18 A C T Gomarsall (Wasps), 19 B B Clarke (Richmond), 20 D J Gerforth (Leicester), 21 P B T Greening (Gloucester)

PARIS TEAMS

FRANCE and (Bourooir

C Lamaison (Brive) S Glas (Bourgoin) D Aucagne (Pau) G Accoceberry (Bègles-Bordeaux)

D Casadei (Brive) M Dalmaso (Agen) F Tournaire (Narbonne)

A Benazzi (Agen)* O Merle (Montferrand) H Miorin (Toulouse)

O Magne (Dax)

Referee: E F Morrison (England) REPLACEMENTS: 16 P Bondouy (Narbonne), 17 U Mola (Dax), 18 P Carbonneau (Brive), 19 R Castel (Béziers), 20 J-L-Jordana (Toulouse), 21 M de Rougemont (Toulon)

SCOTLAND

15 R J S Shepherd (Metrose) 13 A V Tait (Newcastle)

12 G P J Townsend (Northempton) K M Logan (Wasps) C M Chalmers (Melrose) B W Redpath (Metrose)

. . .

U:

Way do n

T J Smith (Watsonians) D G Ellis (Currie) M J Stewart (Northampton/Am R I Wainwright (Watsonians/Army

G W Weir (Newcastle) A I Reed (Wasps) IR Smith (Moseley) P Walton (Newcastle)

BBC1: 2pm REPLACEMENTS: 16 I C Glasgow (Heriot's FP), 17 D W Hodge (Wes-sonians), 18 G Armstrong (Newcast-le), 19 D F Cronin (Wasps), 20 P H

Waddle pulls out of Bradford squad

BRADFORD City remained adamant vesterday that Chris Waddle will stay with them for the rest of the season after the player pulled out of the squad that travelled to Reading for their Nationwide League first division game today. The move by Waddle came the day after his proposed transfer to Nottingham Forest fell through.

The former England player believes that Bradford reneged on a verbal agreement that allowed him to move to the FA Carling Premiership club on a free transfer and made no attempt to hide his disappointment on Thursday night. Yesterday morning, he told Chris Kamara, the Bradford manager, that he had been struck by illness and would not be well enough to train or play.

He is expected to recover by Monday, when he is due to fly to

Monte Carlo as part of the BBC commentary team for the Uefa Cup game between AS Monaco and Newcastle United, which takes place 24 hours later. Coincidentally, Monte Carlo is the home of Irving Scholar, the Forest football consultant, who set up the pro-posed deal with Mel Stein, Waddle's agent.
As Dave Bassett, the Forest

general manager, confirmed that the matter was closed, Bradford adopted a conciliatory tone in taking Waddle's explanation in good faith. Geoffrey Richmond, the chairman, said: "When he gets over these events. I believe every inclination in his body will be to play football and give his all for Bradford. I can understand why he might be a bit upset and not in the right frame of mind to play at the moment."

For the second day running, Forest were frustrated when a proposed signing fell through. Yesterday, they failed to secure the loan surfaces of Brian O'Neill, the Scotland midfield player, from Celtic to the annovance of both Bassett and the player, who had flown from Glasgow in the morning to train at the City Ground. "Celtic had all morning to get the registration papers to us in time for

Cantona profile Magazine Premiership Guide .. Rob Hughes

him to play against Liverpool, but they failed to do that. They must have tried to send their pigeon, it is a disgrace," Bassett said. Forest will attempt to resurrect the deal next week

Tommy Johnson, the Aston Villa striker, will tell Derby County on Monday whether he will return to 26 months ago. The clubs have agreed a fee of £2 million, with Villa receiving a further £250,000 if Derby avoid relegation from the Premiership. "I am not really optimistic about Tommy coming." Jim Smith, the Derby manager,

He is more hopeful of obtaining permits for the Costa Rica pair. Parlo Cesar Wanchope and Mauricio Solis, before the end of the month. The pair will sign from Sporting Herediano in a deal worth £1.2 million over three years subject to Home Office clearance.

Derby have decided not to sign Marino Rahmberg. the Sweden international, who has been at the Baseball Ground on a two-month trial. However, they may take on Scott Huckerby, the younger brother of Darren Huckerby, of Coventry City, who plays for ilkeston Town in the Dr Martens League.

Ferguson thrives on title toil

BY PETER BALL AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

ALEX FERGUSON, the Manchester United manager, may be outburst, but if he is feeling the pressure as the FA Carling Premiership race enters its final phase, he is not showing it. Even the 2-1 defeat against Sunderland at Roker Park last weekend appears to have been forgotten.

United, who play Sheffield Wednesday at Old Trafford this afternoon, also have an important date in Portugal on Wednesday - the return leg of their European Cup quarter-final against FC Porto. Again. and perhaps because of United's stirring 4-0 victory in the first leg. Ferguson appears calm and in control.

'We made a mistake last week because we had a four-point cush-ion." Ferguson said. "That's brought us back to a position we're

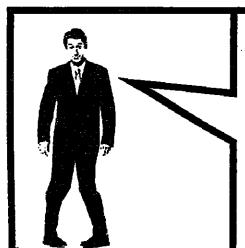
used to, a neck-and-neck, dog-eatdog situation. I think that's what these players need to keep them alive. I think they take a perverse pleasure out of it."

United still lead Liverpool by a point and Ferguson's good hum-our has been helped by the knowledge that, apart from the suspended Roy Keane, he has a full squad to pick from for almost the first time this season. "We've had more than our share of injuries, so it's satisfying to get them all back," he said. "I've that many options, it leaves me with the

problem of picking a team." Nicky Butt, the United midfield player, sees only Liverpool and possibly Arsenal as realistic challengers for the Premiership crown. "I said a couple of weeks ago that I thought it would come down to us and Liverpool," he said. "Although Arsenal could be contenders. because I think they have a good run-in, the others can't afford to make a single mistake now."

Brighton, the Nationwide League third division club, may shelve plans to share Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium. They have to leave the Goldstone Ground at the end of the season, but are now considering temporarily transfer-

ring to Hove greyhound stadium. Discussions have taken place between Coral, the bookmaker. which owns the greyhound stadium, and the consortium that is attempting to take control of Brighton. The deal hinges on construction of a temporary stand to increase the capacity to 6,000. Peter Shotton, the stadium managing director, said: "(f an offer was made that could not be refused. then we would not refuse it."



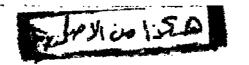
^{on} Eurostar, you can enjoy a relaxing FizzBuzz-

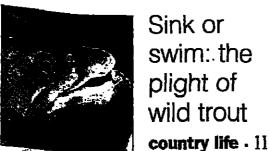
Don't bother lining out at passport control or scrumming for a taxi at Paris airport. Sit in a warm, spacious Eurostar. Read a romantic novel, discuss theology, perhaps even play a relaxing game of scrabble. What could be more civilised? Oh, and in the unlikely event that you wish to indulge in an alcoholic beverage, the bar is open all the way to the centre of Paris.

or see an appointed travel agent or railway station.

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No wonder rugby supporters prefer training to flying.





THE eekend

Alexander Chancellor's first visit to Russia



SATURDAY MARCH 15 1997

Janine di Giovanni celebrates the enduring power of every daughter's love for the first man in her life



slightly when I greeted him, a little sheepish as though embarrassed to be seen in such a state. But he motioned me to move closer, smiled and said my name, using the diminutive. His voice was son and familiar, a timbre and resonance that I had heard practically every day of my life until last year when, terribly and abruptly, it stopped.
"Dad," I said, surprised, to

are you doing here? You're dead."

"I'm not dead," he said. "Who told you I was dead?" I stared at him, confused in the way that one is often confused in dreams. Perhaps my father was not really dead after all. Perhaps the six months of hell, of the diagnosis, the cancer, the hospital, the flights twice a month back and forth to America, and finally, the death and the funeral, had all been a horrible fantasy.

the father "I'm not dead," he repeated, with emphasis. He smiled oddly. "I'm just in the next room." It took me a minute to digest this. I'm not dead, I'm just in

the next room. I found it oddly

comforting, a sign that he would never be far from me.

And then, inspired by the

intimacy of the moment, (

asked him to tell me something

good about the future, because

I was not very happy. He

paused, and then answered.

The message he gave would

it meant a great deal to me in the dream. It was a strange and prophetic message of hope: something that perhaps in life he would not have been able to tell me, because he might have been embarrassed.

I WAS a fortunate child. Put simply. I loved my father, and he loved me, and he told me often. But there was still an awkwardness between us that

mean nothing on this page, but lescence, something to do with puberty and burgeoning sexuality and the fact that my father was an old-fashioned, stern European father. There were 45 years between us and I often felt those years when we argued about marriage or religion or divorce or birth control.

Growing up with him was not easy. In one sense, he wanted us to be American children and embrace the stars and stripes, to march in the had developed during my ado- Fourth of July parades and join she said immediately: "Was he

the Girl Scouts. On the other hand, he was terrified of the family becoming too modern, too assimilated, and thus losing our Italian identity and our strong sense of family, forever. For this reason, he was strict and forced us to live in an artificial environment which never fell into step with the

changing world outside. It created a schizophrenic and often bizarre household, where the women stayed in the kitchen standing over pots of things that smelled amazing, and the men sat waiting to be served. Outside, the women's liberation movement and the summer of love was taking place, but inside my house, men were men and women were women, and we had to be

home for Sunday lunch. When I told a friend that I had been commissioned to write a book about my father,

very famous? Or was he very strange?" The answer is no. He was not a Hollywood producer or a newspaper magnate or a liar from East Texas or a gambler. Despite our name and the fact that he was born in Italy, he was not in the Mafia.

s far as I know, he never cheated on my mother and never de-Liberately lied to my brothers and my sister and me. He did not achieve the greatest heights in his career, and he was probably not entirely satisfied with his life or his family.

If I had to list his achievements, it would probably be that he fathered seven children and, when he died, six were still living and six grieved his death in a way that we will probably never grieve anyone else again. And those six were left with the strongest sense of a father that one could possibly have.

Janine di Giovanni with her father shortly before he died. and (inset) as his smallest fan

I also know that when he died at the age of 76, he died worried. He was worried about leaving my mother alone after nearly six decades. They had been childhood sweethearts. and the only times they were separated when we were small children was when we spent the summers at the beach with my mother while he worked in the City. Even though they were only apart during the week, he wrote long, tearful love letters to her, which I found in my mother's bedside table tied with a pink satin ribbon.

I know he was worried, because the week before he died, my mother and I were in the house alone with him, and he began to have a terrible,

Continued on page 2

..14 | HOME LIFE..... .. 15 TRAVEL

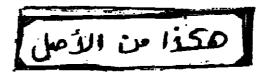
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Why do more people go back to Cyprus than anywhere else in the Med?

NOBODY EVER GOES JUST



Trank Worthington, the Seventies talented maverick wayward rebel footballer to beat all others, the one who looked like late-period Elvis, was asked by the magazine Shoot! in about 1975 what was his favourite pastime. His answer has stuck in my mind.

"Browsing round hardware shops," said Frank. One boy's mother wrote to complain. Her son took the interviews in Shoot! extremely seriously. He did not care for them to be satirised by heroes such as Frank - whose favourite pastime should, by tradition, have been golf, golf - and more golf.

Yet my growing experience of the ironmongery retail sector over the past two decades indicates that Frank was right. Browsing round hardware shops is indeed a re-

warding way to spend time. Like reading poetry, writing letters to friends in foreign countries, or finding out about wine, browsing round hardware shops is one of those things that, in a perfect world. I would do a lot more of.

A fortnight ago, a few jobs came up that were so small, so easy, that could not in all conscience contract any of them out to any one of the builders, painters, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, carpet-fitters, bath re-enamellers or window cleaners that have come to regard my house as a sort of convenient cashpoint to stop off at as they move around London.

Having a limited supply of tools. I found myself in the local hardware shop. One of the best things about these shops is that they always have what you want. This

is quite a rare experience for the shopper, for whom the opportunity to exchange money for precisely what he desires is limited. Shopkeepers large and small often seem unable and/or unwilling to sell you what you want to buy.

The situation has improved dramatically in recent years, thanks largely to the spread of shops owned by people originating from the Indian sub-continent, who understand that the idea of shopkeeping is to have things other people want to buy and then be willing to sell them.

Such a man runs my local hardware shop. He is living proof that there is such a thing as a





ROBERT CRAMPTON

talent for shopkeeping. There are untalented, modestly talented and hugely talented shopkeepers just as footballers, bath re-enamellers or writers have differing degrees of ability. And then there are geniuses. My local hardware man - he can be found at the north end of Broadway Market, Hackney, east London — is one such genius. More than a genius - a magician. He stocks everything, and can point to where it all is, in the time it takes to say Hoover bags.

Given that his shop is about the size of an average spare bedroom. say 12ft square, it is of course very crowded, the whole trove covered with a light patina of dust. Taking the two steps that get you from the door to the counter, my head came into hard contact with an overhanging kettle. That kettle hit the kettle next to it, which hit the next

domino effect, like an avant-garde musical instrument. Or one of those metal-balls-on-wires executive toys that you don't see

one, setting up a clanging kettle

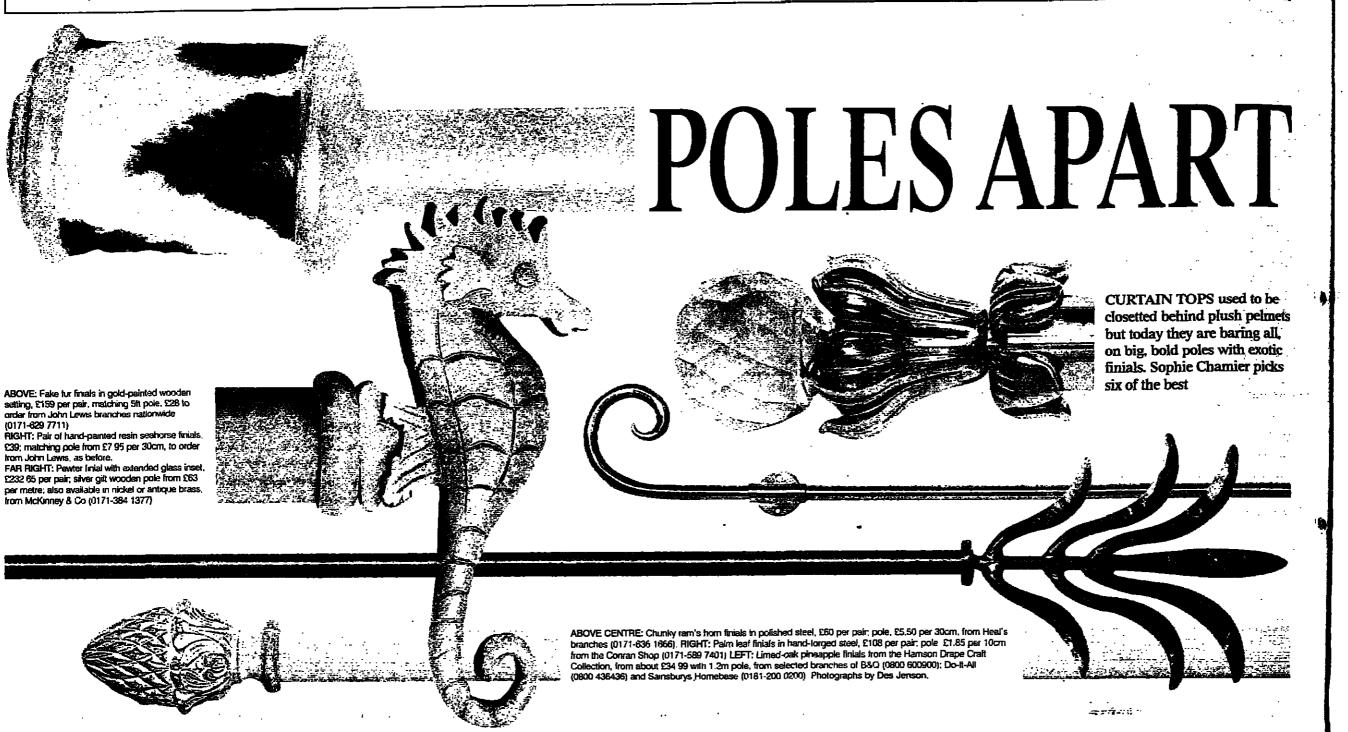
The shopkeeper giggled. "I've got a list." I said. He went serious. clasped his hands across his large. dungareed stomach, and prepared to perform, like Pavaroni clearing his throat.

said: "I want three of those cylindrical lightbulbs. . 240mm. 30waп. орадие." They were on the counter before I had finished speaking. "A padlock." He slapped three down to choose from. "Some sandpaper." He gestured to a display. "Pliers, cutting ones." Instantly, he was twirling a pair in his fingers.

miming a cutting action. "Wire not too thick." A coil of that very thing dropped on to the growing pile of goods between us. "Masonry nails, biggish, not those ones like miniature chisels that destroy your house." He pointed. A little box all but levitated off a shelf and

floated over, just the right size.
"And a dustbin." A son was dispatched, a range produced, a bin selected, a suggestion made and accepted that perhaps the other items be placed therein, a bill flourished, a banknote transferred, a virtuosity observed, like when studio audiences used to applaud Ronnie Barker's tour de force monologues.

Not much time for browsing but somewhere, I am sure, Frank Worthington ran his fingers through his quiff and smiled.



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'He never, even in the grips of terrible disease, forgot the role of provider'

Continued from page I racking, attack. My mother was frightened, as she leaned over to examine him. At that moment, he caught her necklace, a fragile diamond heart on a long silver chain, in one scrawny hand, and looked at her, through the pain, and said: "Catherine. You're so pretty." I also know he was worried because the next day, he called me into his room and asked me, the youngest child, to look after her.

He was also worried that those of us in my family who had not yet turned into grown-ups would run even wilder if his

presence was not somewhere in the world looking out for us. I know this because he asked my older sister, who lives 5,000 miles away, to take care of me. He never, even in the grips of the most terrible wasting disease, forgot the role of provider.

Which, if my father was anything, was what he was: a provider.

o what did this all mean for me? I know there are women who have been burdened by the strength of this paternal love, repressed and unable to crawl out of the shadow of a powerful father. Theodora Burr, daughter of the American revolutionary hero Aaron, wrote to her father. They appear to me to her father: "You appear to me so superior, so elevated above other men. I contemplate you with a strange mixture of humility, admiration, reverence, love, pride, that very little superstition would be necessary to make me worship you as a superior being . . . I had rather not live than not be the daughter of such a man."

I always thought I did not feel like that: but on some level, I did and still do. When I was 21, I fell in love with someone and married shortly after. I felt, oddly enough, as if I were sleepwalking through the entire thing.

I was stunned, moving in slow motion. like someone who had been injected with a painkiller, yet I knew it was something I had to do, because in the world in which I had been brought up women needed men to look after them.

"I can't believe I'm only going to do this once in my life," I said. An odd thing for a bride-to-be to say. But my father was not shocked. He said, 'I understand'."

I separated from my husband after eight years in the way a child separates from their family when they are sent to boarding school for the first time. It was not easy, but I knew it was necessary. And it was only after some time that I realised that I had married a man who was extraordinarily similar to my father: kind, sensitive, gentle. He looked after me in a selfless and unconditional way, and being near him gave me a feeling of supreme confidence, as though nothing in the world could possibly go wrong. He was a rock. After that, I spent a lot of time with people who were not rocks. They were six months in bed, emaciated, barely able clingers. Yet the week that my father was to walk to and from his bed. He hated diagnosed with terminal cancer and given less than six months to live. I met the person I am now with. Like my father, he is Italian (the first Italian I have gone out with), and he has many of the same char-

acteristics: difficult, stubborn, sensitive. It seems an ironic, and sad emotional circle, and that first summer we were together was filled with terrible conflicting emotions: joy and sadness, new beginnings and heartbreaking endings. It was the best summer on record for 40

Janine di Giovanni: an adult at last

years, and every day we went out to breakfast in the sunshine. We were there the morning that my father died, when I was standing in the queue waiting for the coffee, and I suddenly got a sharp pain in my chest and, despite the heat, felt icy cold, and I got the bill and raced home. I called the hospital in America, and found out my father had died, minutes before, in his bed overlooking the river which ran into the part of the sea where he had taught me to swim.

My boyfriend had raced back home with me and was standing behind me while I spoke to my brother on the phone. I put the phone down and put my head down on my desk and cried, and then he and I sat downstairs and said nothing. Later. I said my only regret was that my father died before they could meet.

For many months, my father's death haunted me, mostly because he had died a terrible death. For an athlete who had spent his life in motion, he spent his last

television, forbade us to watch it as children, and so what upset me the most when I came home a few weeks before he died was to find him lying on the sofa covered by a blanket, watching afternoon cooking shows with glazed, drugged eyes. He could not eat because of the ulcers in his mouth, and the chemotherapy made him nauseous, so he was denied the food he loved the most: the special pasta my mother had been taught to make by his mother, clams which he had taught us to

dig from the beach near our house. Denying him things that he loved seemed to kill him bit by bit and it was terrible to watch. He could not go to walk by the sea, so the priest came to our house and said Mass while my father lay in bed, a small grey face against the whiteness of the pillow. During the "Our Father", I began to cry and my brother elbowed me, in the way he had when we were children.

n the second week of October last year, my brother and I drove our father to the hospital to die. It was his favourite month; the month when the foliage explodes on the east coast of America, but he was not watching the trees. His eyes were straight ahead on the road. I sat behind him in the car, memorising the way the last of his hair fell above his ear, and touching his hand so that I could imprint the feeling of what it was like to hold it in my hand. He complained that he did not want to be perted like a dog, but he did not pull his hand away. One of my brothers, who is a doctor, told me not to stray too far from home, but we had no idea how quickly the end would happen. Within days, it would turn out; we just knew

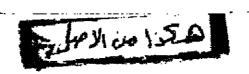
that we were taking him away from his home, which he loved, from my mother, who was at home crying and packing his case. from his flower beds, from his

books, and from us.
When I said goodbye to him in his
hospital bed, I kept thinking: look at him as though this is the last time. Listen to his voice so that you will always remember it. But it is difficult to imagine loss before it actually happens, or to know how empty you really feel when it finally comes.

The day he died, my boyfriend and I went to Brometer On boyfriend and I went to Brometer On boyfriend and I

went to Brompton Oratory in London to light two candles, one for him, one for us. Alterwards, I are lunch in an Italian restaurant nearby and ordered bruschetta, which my father had given me to eat as a child, and thought that for the first time in my life. I felt like an adult. Because childhood is, as Edna St Vincent Millay wrote, the place where no one ever dies.

• Janine di Giovanni's book, The Fall of Rome: An American Family 1945-1995, will be published new year by Orion.



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were the state

The Halle luce

ABOVE: Pale blue suedette trousen £45, Jigsaw (0171-491 4484). Mutticolour suede belt, £35, Otto Glanz, Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0181-365 1711). Navy

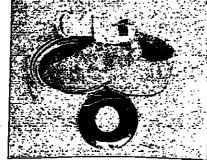
cardigan with collar, £50, French Connection, (0171-580 2507). Blue snake skin strappy suede wedge shoes, £135, Russell & Bromley, selected branches (0171-629 6903). Purple suede fringe bag, from £42, Dollargrand, Selfridges,

W1 (0171-794 3028) **BELOW LEFT:** Lime suede bag, £55, Red or Dead, branches nationwide (0171-235 1335). Hot pink suede gloves. £35, Fenwicks, W1 (0171-629 9161)

BELOW MIDDLE: Red suede belt, £25; orange suede round buckle belt, £39, Otto Glanz, Harrods, W1 (0181-365 1711). Purple wide harrband and matching blue hairband, £9.95, Selfridges, W1 (0171-629 1234)

BELOW RIGHT: Red suede criss-cross platform shoe. £37.99, Ravel, branches nationwide (0171-631 0224). Blue suede flat mules, £95.50, by K. Jacques for Russell & Bromley (0171-629 6903). Pale grey suede wedge flip flop, £165. Gina SW1 (0171-235 2932)



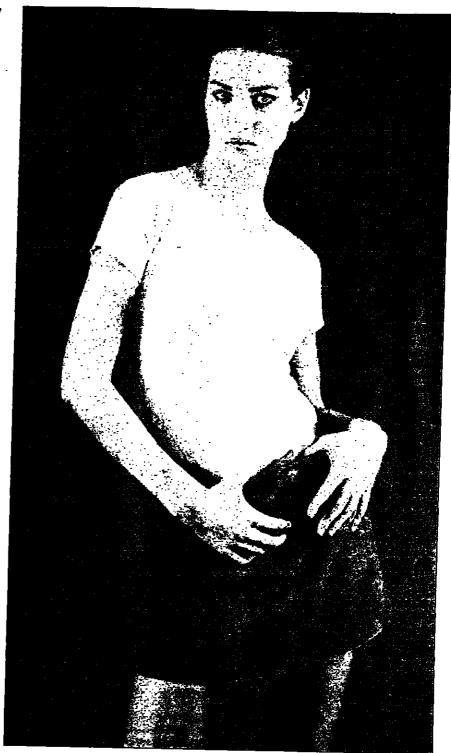






Suede is back, but this time its light, bright, fluid looks have made it fun and easy to wear, says Heath Brown





LEFT: Pale green suede belted jacket, £495; matching straight-leg trousers, £295, from a selection by Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-487 4484) RIGHT: Pale green cotton knit top, £58, John Smedley, Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-580 5075). Red suedette skirt, £23.99, Absolute Leather, available at Miss Selfridge, 221-223 Oxford Street, W1 and selected branches (0171-637 9526)

are this season's anti-THREE OF dote to sheen and shine fashions. The appeal of suede, and its imita-A KIND tors, is its sense of discreet luxury. It is also durable and thus a good investment, even

uedes and suedettes

Today, what can be made from these fabrics is limitless. i rouser suits lend themselves well to this genre and the huge range of skirt styles and lengths available is given a

different edge depending on the fluidity of the material

Traditional styles in suede have changed. The old image

of heavy tan jackets and bulky double stitched jeans that thicken up your silhouette has gone and lighter, more fluid looks have made suede as flattering as any fabric. This summer's flimsy chiffon blouses and thin jersey trousers can be worn with a coat or skirt in suede. Fine-gauge knit cotton tops and flat colour knits are also the perfect accompaniment. If you cannot bear to be seen without a blast of this season's essential sheen, you can contrast with a hint of shiny satin or nylon, for

a contradictory look.

As ever, accessories can be

found in suede and suedene.

Multi-coloured mules, soft

grey sandals and strappy platform shoes come in muted tones and more delicate styles.

Bags are fringed and slashed

in brighter colours and made

into more unusual shapes and

belts are pale and pastel. Even

craftsy outlets.

jewellery gets a look-in with

thonged suede disc pen-dants found at more

Photographs by

Kvalheim lor Jo

Amandip Uppal

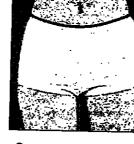
Richard Burns. Hair

and make up by Sally

Hansford Styling by

A VPL (Visible Panty Line) is no longer a though it can prove to be pretty expensive.

The newer and less pricey fashion faux pas. Big suedettes and moleskins have knickers worn beneath come a long way. They are supple and more pliable than older versions, which were hard to manipulate and had an almost thick, paper-like sheer clothing are there to be seen in dark or bright colours. Here are our choices. H.B.



Cream pants with black trim. £52, by Karl Lagerfeld from Boisvert, (0171-409 1721)

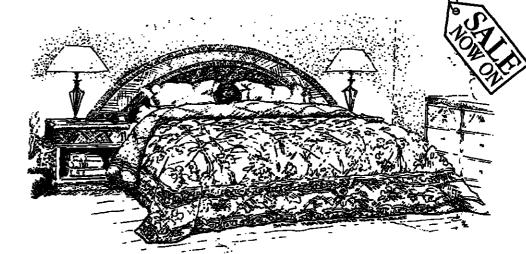


Knickerbox, branches nationwide (0171-284 1744)

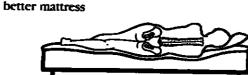


£13.99, Gossard, stores nationwide (0171-331 4519)

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DUX

Many people are put off property auctions, but there are excellent rewards for those who do their homework

Going, going, gone for a bargain

eer's hammer falls, the highest bidder is bound by contract to buy. One of the main advantages of buying property at auction is the certainty: neither the seller nor the buyer can change their mind and the delays and frustrations associated with buying a house by the more usual means are mainly eliminated.

Then there is the excitement and competitive atmosphere of the auction room generated by the scent of a bargain, rarely experienced in an estate agent's showroom or a lawver's office.

"There is still a mystique surrounding the auction room." says Bill Petch. an auctioneer for 30 years. "And although it is a myth that if you scratch your nose or blink our eyes you may find you've bought something very expensive, auctions do create tensions and emotions.

Pauline Sumner, 30, who has bought four properties at auction, enjoys that atmosphere. "The buzz gets to you. especially when you are buying." she says. "You know how much money you have to spend, and you know what leeway you have. You have to try to read the auction, without giving away too much about your own intentions. Mrs Sumner, who launched

Cavendish Property Services to buy, rent. renovate and sell properties, is usually among a minority of women at the property auctions she attends. You often have builders on one side, big businessmen on the other and a few individuals like me in between." If she is buying for invest-

ment, she follows her own strict rules: "I arrange the finance in advance and set my limits in my head.

But when Mrs Sumner was house-hunting for her own family, things were different. Married with two sons, she needed a property big enough to accommodate the family and her grandmother, who lives with her, and enough land for her to stable a horse. With her husband, Michael. she found a whitewashed farmhouse, dating from 1860, set in an acre of land near the Fylde coast in Lancashire.

We liked it straight away. It gave us the space we needed

BUYERS' GUIDE

Inspect the property. have it surveyed and study the documentation held by the auctioneers in advance.

Arrange funding and be prepared to pay a 10 per cent deposit on the

Check on the day of the auction that the property has not been withdrawn or sold in advance.

■ Know your financial limits and stick to them. Arrange for the property to be insured from the date of the auction.

which we'd never had before. But even when we heard it was going for auction, I was convinced it would be out of our price range." For that reason Mrs Sumner, who in the past had always obeyed the essential rule of arranging funding before the auction, was unprepared.

I was so sure it would go weren't organised," she says. It was so frustrating because we couldn't bid." But when the property did not reach its eserve price and was withdrawn. Mrs Sumner stepped in with an offer that was

reparation is essential, according to all auctioneers. Roy Pugh & Company of Preston. Lancashire, which last year sold properties that realised more than £12.8 million, publishes a question and answer guide to buying at auction in its catalogues.

Auctioneers advise anyone planning to buy a property to have it surveyed in advance to help them to determine its value and structural condition. "The cost of a survey may be money they will lose if they are not the successful bidder. but the risk of that is far outweighed by the potential problems of buying a property without knowing its full hist-

ory," Roy Pugh says.
"It is also essential that potential buyers arrange funding in advance - if a mortgage or a loan is needed, they must know the money has been



Pauline Sumner with son Paul at their farmhouse, dating from 1860, in an acre of land near the Fylde coast in Lancashire. "It is vital to prepare for a bid"

agreed," Mr Pugh says. "Once the hammer falls, they are bound by the contract."

A deposit of 10 per cent is required on the day of the auction, with the balance being paid usually within 28 days and sometimes earlier.

Rob Spears, a pollution control manager, checked those details before he attended his first auction, hoping to house in need of renovation after living in rented accommodation since he moved to Newcastle upon Tyne.

Because we were still trying to sell our last house in South Yorkshire, we needed something we could afford without that sale," he says. "I set myself a maximum price before the auction, but there was pressure on me on the day

Three days after the builder,

couple in the room who obviously wanted the house, too." The house in a former Northumberland mining vil-

lage was originally offered for sale through an estate agent at about £90,000, but was reduced after water damage. "When we reached the guide

price, we both carried on bidding." he says. "There was some tension and, once I had reached our limit, I started to feel the pressure. In the end I went up another £3,500. When I saw the other couple leave the room. I sensed they had gone beyond their limit."

Many people are still reluctant to try their hand at a property auction, believing the ivate treaty route is safer. But Mr Petch, a Royal Insurance Property Services aucthemselves organised in good

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

time, they can pick up a good deal. A property is often put to auction because it has been difficult to sell and there are bargains to be had."

But setting a limit is vital. Mr Petch says that seasoned buyers and speculators know when to stop, but first-timers can allow emotions to affect their bidding.

LYNNE GREENWOOD

PROPERTY **NEWS**

Fab Four barber shop sale

THE Penny Lane barber's shop where the Beatles first had their famous haircuts isone of the star lots at Bonhams' "Beatles for Sale" memorabilia auction on March 22 Amanda Loose writes. The terraced building in Liverpool has an unoccupied hairdressing salon on the ground, first and second floors, and a flat above, Guide price £300,000. Contact Allsop. & Co on 0171-494 3686.

■ NEW house prices have risen by 5.8 per cent over the past year, according to the Halifax. The average price of a new house was £71,757 last month, while the price paid by first-time buyers rose by 2 (per cent to £48,168, 5 per cent: higher than a year ago. Previous owner-occupiers now pay an average of £76,314.

GRADE II listed Faraday. House, once home to chemist and physicist Michael Faraday, who was given it as part of his pension by Queen Victoria, is for sale for about £475,000. The four or fivebedroom house at Hampton Court dates from the late 17th and early 18th century. Contact John D. Wood on 0181-

THE rentals market is booming in Kensington and Chelsea, west London, as the shortage of properties for sale means many people are unable to find the right house to buy, says Egerton.

■ THE former home at St John's Wood, north London, of Boy George's drummer, John Moss, is for sale for £1.25million. Danish jazz musician Allan Botschinsky and his wife Marion Kaempfert currently live in the 1843 studio. house, which boasts walled gardens, galleried reception rooms and two bedrooms. Contact Goldschmidt & Howland on 0171-724 4404.

TOP-FLOOR flats in central London are worth nearly double the same flat at ground floor level, according to Savills. The price per square foot of a 10th-floor flat in a new residential development costs an average 88 per... cent more than one on the ground floor, and 103 per cent more than a basement flat.

It's a hot little number

Stoves are not just for heating the

fashionable

house, they make

furniture too

Leta Reynolds gazed at a gruesome" gas fire mounted on a wall in the lounge of their Buckinghamshire home.

When they finally removed it, they spent another four years wondering what to do with the fireplace which lay behind the wallpaper and

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mixed: 40 African corn lilies - mixed: and 20

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ance had hung.

*Other work in the house took priority and I suppose we weren't sure what we'd find if the fireplace was opened up. or what the building costs would be," Mrs Reynolds says. "In the end, we became fed up of looking at a blank wall and decided to go for it."

Roy Green, started work he had exposed a 3ft square hole at the base of the chimney the area into which an onen fire had earlier been set and which is known in the trade as a builder's opening - and installed a Vermont Castings Intrepid multi-fuel stove. What came out of the builder's opening was a small fireback with coals and ash

still in the hearth, and a vast amount of brick and rubble infill. Mr Green put in two steel lintels to hold up the chimney breast, an airtight steel plate, called a register plate, across the chimney opening, and a stove pipe to take the smoke from the stove through the plate and into the chimney flue. The stove itself sits on a solid

hearth made of concrete (already in place) with natural slate on top. The sides and back of the fireplace were finished with rustic-look bricks. The total cost of the work was \$1,200, including about £700 for the stove.

wish we'd opened it up years ago because the stove has been a godsend this winter. It also fits the room perfectly and our two young boys love it," says Mrs Reynolds, who had to seal off all the rooms in the house when the work was being done because of the dust.

The price of stoves — wood burning, multi-fuel (coal and wood), gas or oil - varies from about 5250 to £2,000. H.G. Matthews, the suppliers of the Vermont Intrepid and of the handmade fireplace bricks, offers a range of English, American, Belgian and Norwegian stoves in a wide variety of colours. Will Matthews, a director, says: "Stoves are becoming very fashionable. They're like a piece of furniture, an object in the house to be talked about."

Although stoves can be positioned away from the wall, or even in the middle of a room. the favoured location is in an inglenook, a space where an old cooking range used to be, or in a builder's opening.

Peter Healy of the National Fireplace Association says these openings are most com-monly found in properties dating from the 1880s to the 1960s, when central heating started to be installed, "People



The Reynolds' children love the newly installed stove

Stainless steel flue liners are

between five and nine inches

in diameter but need to be

thicker-skinned for solid-fuel

stoves. Allow at least £400 for

such a liner inside a typical

chimney and slightly less

again for installation. Any

chimney used for solid fuel

ought to be swept twice a year.

leaking into other rooms if the

chimney is not in good condi-

tion and prevent any tar seeping through the chimney walls and staining the

building.
Mr Matthews says some

people make the mistake of

buying a stove that is far too

big. They might look beauti-

ful but they will throw out far

too much heat for a small

room. Even small stoves gen-

erate a lot of warmth," he says.

When Mark Trickett and

Karen Kankalis were thinking

of installing a stove he advised

them to make a cardboard

replica of the model they

wanted. That way they could

be sure it looked right in their fireplace and in their 33ft-long

lounge. The couple settled for

a Belgian stove called an Efel

Harmony I (multi-fuel), which

Meanwhile. Mrs Reynolds

discovered that stoves fired

her up more than being a

lecturer on wig making. She

now has a part-time job in the

sales department at H.G.

cost £\$70.

Liners help with the draw of the fire, stop smoke and fumes

room and stoves are efficient heaters as well. They can also be linked to existing hot water systems," he says. He advises having the chim-

ney checked for any obstruc-tions and swept before installation. Where the property is more than 30 years old Mr Healy suggests having the flue inside the chimney lined. One way is to have a flexible stainless steel liner dropped in from the top and attached to the stove pipe that comes up through the register plate. Houses built within the last 30 years should have their flues lined already,

FACT FILE

■ National Fireplace Association, 35 Dale End. Birmingham B4 7LN (0121-200 1310). The association has details of stove manufacturers and publishes a year book (£2.50 including p&p) with information and articles about fireplaces. The NFA also has a series of leaflets on lining old chimneys, roomheaters and stoves. and open fires for £2 each or £19 for the set of nine including a binder.

H.G. Matthews, Bellingdon Brickworks. Chesham, Bucks HP5 2UR (01494 758212).

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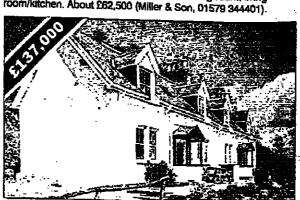
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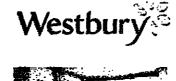
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Jidden Jihe los

A four-storey house in an elegant Nash terrace on the edge of Regent's Park in London . . . well, you can dream

Regency drama from the terraces

f you are sitting amid the rubble and brick dust of a mare-never-end kitchen and granny flat extension, it may be a small comfort to know that even the great John Nash had terrible trouble with his builders.

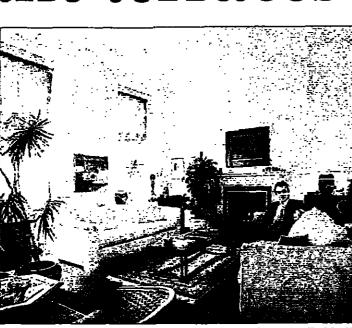
Chester Terrace, one of the last to be built in 1825, completed the elegant sweep of cream Nash terraces that grace three sides of Regent's Park in central London, but it is not as the designer intended. The builder substituted the wings at each end with detached houses; cornices were not considered straight, and the statues on the 52 columns decorating the façade, depicting British worthies, were thought by Nash to be "ludicrous...one is of a man reading a book, a worthy employment, but if every man who reads a book is to be admitted into the class of British Worthies they would reach round the whole park".

A fine Regency row developed. The statues went, the houses stayed — on condition they were connected to the main terrace by imposing arches. Near the southern arch at the end of the terrace, by an old ivycovered tree, stands No 4 - for sale for the first time in 30 years, at £1.3 million with a 63-year lease.

Under the protection of the Crown Estates, this four-storey, Grade I listed property has, like all 42 in the terrace, remained a single residence. There are no bedsit conversions or other developers' quick-profit wheezes in this quiet, private road which retains its small, black, wrought-iron street lamps with gold "ER" crests. The Prince Regent could stroll by and see little change, though his every move would be monitored by dis-creet CCTV cameras, one of the few nods to contemporary street life.

No 4 retains the original groundfloor dining room and high-ceil-inged first-floor drawing room facing towards the park, light streaming through three huge halfshuttered sash windows.

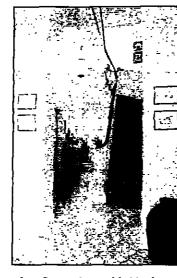
After the external splendour, I expected the house to be endowed inside with Brighton Pavilion-like extravagant cornices and mouldings, but they are understated and of simple geometric design, though



The first-floor drawing room faces the park. Below, the tiled hall

the L-shaped drawing room has two perfectly-proportioned Corinthian columns guarding the entrance to the study area, mirroring those on the terrace's facade. No radiators intrude on the magnoliapainted Regency walls: central heating comes from ducts set in the wide skirting boards.

The cosy, lived-in kitchen and unpretentious bathrooms need refurbishment to pass muster in these days of push-button technology so beloved of big spenders at the Monopoly money end of the market. Equally a la mode is restoring 19th-century details sacrificed to passing fashion over the years, so I would reinstate the missing ceiling light fittings and surrounding roses, strip the paint from the wood-panelled kitchen walls (praying I don't reveal acres of pine. nowadays more nouveau than Nash), and replace the modern grey-beige ceramic floor tiles in the hall and dining room with a more traditional design, perhaps black and white to complement the narrow, white staircase, with its hardwood hand rail, that meanders in a series of elegant curves and swirls to the top of the house. Can't face the flog up four flights



when Rupert leaves his blanket up in the nursery and refuses to feed the ducks and squirrels in Regent's Park without it? Don't despair. Take the small lift, originally built for the butler in what was then the basement staff quarters, to get the breakfast tray to the top bedrooms before the coddled eggs congealed.

On the second floor a large landing leads to the master bedroom, dressing room and small bathroom. You will probably have



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

4 Chester Terrace, Regent's Park, London NW1 ● Price: £1.3 million with 63-year Crown Estate lease ● Shopping: so central you can walk aimost anywhere — south to Oxford Circus and Bond Street or north to Camden Market
Entertainment: London Zoo and Regent's Park open-air theatre on the doorstep; theatreland a short taxi-ride away. Bracing walks in the park or, for a change, Primrose Hill. The park is a magnet, so prepare for masses milling around on hot summer Sundays and Bank Holidays

Estate Paving Commission (about £700 a year). Every four years the

exterior of the 1,000ft terrace is

painted in a specific shade of cream

(with its own code number), wheth-

er it needs it or not, and residents

must comply with stringent main-

Place is said to have been ordered

to tone down the horticultural

flamboyance of his window boxes.

Those lucky enough to live in their

A resident in nearby Chester

tenance standards.

to learn to live with Nash's idea of how big a bathroom should be: if you have visions of turning it into a fancy glass and marble extravaganza, by shaving a few feet off the landing or bedroom, you will have to get the plans past the Crown Estates style police first.

They will take some convincing. The Crown Estates edicts are ignored at your lease's peril. There is nothing as common as a service charge: fees are paid to the Crown

JOHN D WOOD & CO.

interfering bureaucracy stamping its heel on personal liberty. Others might be relieved to know that, in a city where no amount of money can guarantee decent neigh-

bours, such measures ensure that the integrity and serenity of this Georgian masterpiece remain intact, and that any resident who made a mint in scrap metal won't bring his work home. Buyers are prepared to pay large amounts to be ticked off about their

about Englishmen, castles and

cracked front steps and for once the agent's phrase "much sought after" is spot on. Only one or two of these houses come on the market each

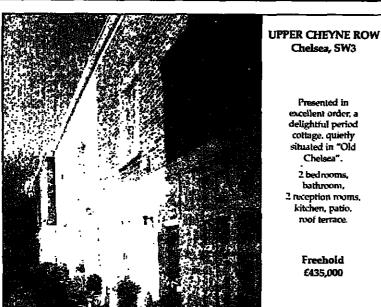
There is no garden - a big disadvantage — but the terraces were built with the green expanse of Regent's Park as a very superior

back yard. Both would be diminished without the proximity of the other. True, you can't shuffle outside with only a bathrobe and coffee mug well-screened from the hoi polloi, but you can enjoy the park's restored Italian garden with out the worry of weeding, take a summer evening stroll to the openair theatre, spend an afternoon with little Cosima in the children's playground or sit on a grass bank overlooking London Zoo and watch

an elephant get a pedicure.

Both picnickers in the park and whoever buys 4 Chester Terrace should gaze about them and raise a glass to the Prince Regent, John Nash — and the builders.

CHRISTINE WHEELER Agent: Anthony Breslauer,



Chelsez, SW3

cellent order. delightful period cottage, quieth ituated in "Old

2 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms kitchen, patio, noof terrace.

> Freehold £435,000

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large mof terrace, 4/5 bods, 2 baths, recep, study/bed 5, kit, studio recep rm, garden, root terrace. FULHAM: 0171-731 4223

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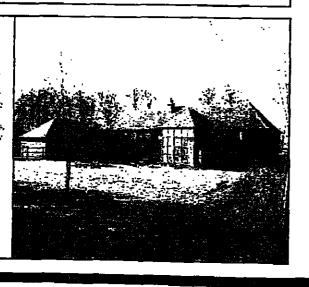


HAMPSHIRE - Near Lymington Price Guide: £335,000 A well presented house on the outskirts of Lymington, 5 beds, 2 baths, 3 shower rms, 2 neeps, kitchen, utility rm, 2 further rooms, garage block, 2 greenhouses, large garden. LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

HAMPSHIRE Near Burghclere With many original features, a spacious

conversion with farreaching views to the Downs, 3, 4 beds. 374 receps, kit, utility rm, trible garage, About 0.61 ha

> Price Guide: £345,000 NEWBURY:



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Splendid views across the River from the 5.9m (19tt) reception rm and balcony of this 3rd floor flat in a development near Wandsworth Bridge, 2 beds. bath, shower rm, let, underground parking, lift WANDSWORTH: 0181-871 3033

CLAPHAM COMMON NORTHSIDE, SW4

On five floors. a Grade II listed family house with a southerly aspect towards Holy Trinity Church and the oper spaces of Clapham

5/6 bedrooms 3 bathrooms. 2 reception rooms conservatory, kitchen office/playroom, parking.

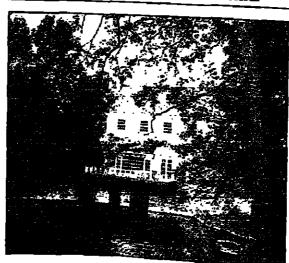
> Freehold £580,000

BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174





OXFORDSHIRE ~ East Hendred Price Guide: £595,000 A predominantly Georgian listed former rectory in a popular downland village, 6 beds. 2 baths, 3 receps, kit, sun rm, 2 s/c flats, garaging, outbuildings. About 0.7 ha (1.75 acres); OXFORD: 01865 311522



SUFFOLK . Kedington firon Walden 14 mil Cambridge 19 miles An attractive, listed? ormer water mill wit revised timbers and riginal features 4 beds, bath, cikrus, large recep, kit, cell garaging, dble bank river montage, attractive garder bout 0.4 ha (1 acre) Price Guide

£259,000 ... HEAD OFFICE 0171-493 4106

· Hidden temple of the lost world

The restoration of Heligan gardens is complete. Or is it? The owner set off with Jane Owen to unearth more dramatic finds

oday The Times can reveal the final undiscovered corner of the Lost Gardens of Heligan. The remains of an 18th-century Gothic temple can just be made out through the suffocating embrace of ivy, ferns, moss and brambles on a steep, thickly overgrown hill at the far end of the 57-acre sub-tropical Cornish garden.
In 1991, Tim Smit took on the

massive task of restoring these derelict gardens, which reached their zeruth in the last century. In so doing, this former archaeologist and rock music producer achieved what no institution could have done in the time with the same resources. Last week he agreed, a little reluctantly, to reveal Heligan's last

We meet in his small wooden office. He is puffing on a thin cigar fielding calls about his scheme to build the world's biggest greenhouse for the millennium, just down the road. A quick change of gear and Mr Smit, whose television series on Heligan began last night, explains the route

He leads us off through Heligan. Flora's garden, where huge camellias and even a rhododendron are in flower in this first week of March, leads down into the cruciform 1.4 acre vegetable garden and then to the manure-heated pineap-

It is the first time the pits have been fully working and Mr Smit is pretty certain they will ripen pineapples this year, warmed by 100 tons of rotting manure in a lidded trench along the side of the glassed pineapple pit. The know-how for this system died with the Victorian head gardener who understood its secrets. Today, some of the 54 staff employed at Heligan are trying to discover how to get the best out of

this organic hearing system.

Mr Smit stops. "Do you really want to see the temple hill? It's very overgrown." We reassure him as he caresses a rare Cupressus dupreziana once believed to survive only in a certain arid part of the Sahara but now thriving in damp fecundity.

The Lost Gardens of Heligan aren't lost any more. Last year



Rhododendron petals drift across one of Heligan's lakes

200,000 people visited them, making them the most popular gardens in the country. Apart from being varied and beautiful and from having some important and unusual plants, overseen by the former director of Wisley gardens, Philip McMillan-Browse, the gardens have the passion that so many historically correct gardens lack.

It takes more than plants to bring a garden alive. Mr Smit has the knack of firing up those around him to put their hearts and souls into what they are doing, and to remind the rest of us about the joy

Through Heligan, Mr Smit wants to revive the traditions of cooperation between large gardens and landscapes: for instance, various neighbouring Cornish gardens are propagating old camellia cultivars from Heligan and will return

Mr Smit says it is 18 months since he went to the temple and it was so overgrown it might be tricky to find again. I remind him that I am under orders to get the story. Mr Smit suggests that, for all he knows, the temple ruins may have been stolen. We soldier on, looping past the sundial garden with a vast newly planted herbaceous border, past the walled flower garden, the glasshouses stuffed with oranges. passion fruit, bananas and peaches, across the newly planted orchard with rows of medlars, plums and Comish apples.

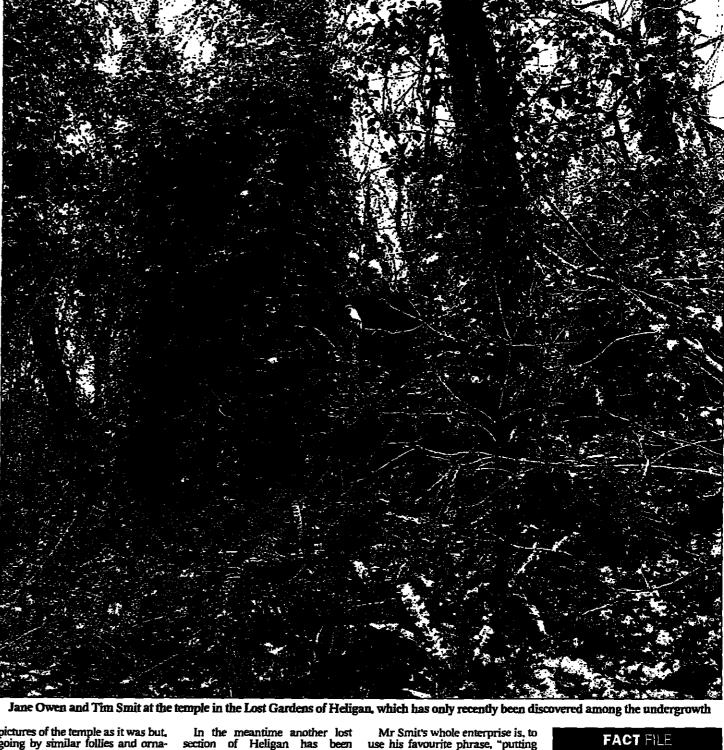
We then dip down into the jungle garden where container loads of tree ferns from New Zealand were used to repopulate the sides of the steep valley, and a series of lakes trickle into each other. Vast leaves of gunnera, in season, chusan palms (Trachycarpus fortunei) Japanese black pine, gingkos and a Magnolia x soulangeana 'Lennei' lend the lush flavour of the tropics.

We come to the end of the gardens, across a millstream and into an overgrown wood of holly and beech and plough through the thick brambles dotted with the odd daffodil and a sea of bluebell leaves, up a steep hill.

e are scratched through our clothes by thorns and a grey drizzle drips constantly through the bare-branch canopy above. At the top of the hill, where Mr Smit reckoned the temple should be, we go in separate directions. No luck.

But then a shout from Mr Smit, and there he is framed by ivy, brambles, ferns, moss and the 18thcentury brick remains of the neo-Gothic temple, built as a ruin to be seen in the distance from the grand house, or as a place to aim for after a ride on the Gallops through the gardens below.

I scavenge for stone ornaments or casements that might once have decorated the temple but find only an ancient billy can. There are no



pictures of the temple as it was but, going by similar follies and ornaments in the rest of the garden, Mr Smit reckons it would have been built as a ruin without any roof,

with a cobble and brick floor. When he has the funds and the time Mr Smit will restore this and breathe life back into what once may have been a fine trysting place far enough away from the main house to keep lovers' secrets.

He will have to decide whether to keep it as it is or to cut away the woodland and scrub to reveal a "ruined" gothic eyecatcher silhouetted against the horizon.

use his favourite phrase, "putting something in good heart". For most brought back to life: the 27-acre people this would have been a lifetime's work. But not Mr Smit. Lost Valley which opened this week. Nine months ago the valley was an impenetrable mass of Already, on top of the millennium sycamore, ash and bramble, and it greenhouse, he is firing up about was assumed to be woodland, as new projects: not simply reviving maps suggested. But now a water an obscure Victorian garden boiler meadow at the centre of the valley system but changing the face of has been planted with wild flowers modern horticulture, no less. and the lakes with truckloads of bulrushes. Paths leading down to

the ravine have had their drystone

walls rebuilt, bridges across the

lakes have been constructed and

the first wildfowl have arrived.

And he will probably succeed. Here is a man who has amassed a pile of laurels but I doubt he will ever care to sit on them.

Meet Tim Smit, page 15

■ The second and third programmes in Tim Smit's series. The Lost Gardens of Heligan, will be broadcast on March 21 and 28 at 8pm on Channel 4. His book of the same name is published by Victor Gollancz at £20.

The Lost Gardens of Heligan, Pentewan, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 6EN (01726 844157) is holding a large anniversary flower show from April 11-13.

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GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Our beautiful old oak our beautiful old oak tree has fungus grow-ing at ground level on three sides and I fear this will weaken the tree. Should I remove the fungus, and apply a fungicide?

— Mrs J.A. Notley. Winchester, Hampshire.

A This sounds like one of the root and buttrotting fungi, probably the beef steak fungus, Fistulina hepatica, and there is no cure. Removing the fungus brackets from the trunk will have no effect; these are merely the fruiting bodies of a fungus which is inside the tree, slowly devouring the roots and heartwood.

There are only two things you can usefully do: first. don't panic; such diseases take many years to run their course before the host dies, and yours seems to be showing no sign even of crown loss yet. Secondly. get a tree surgeon to make sample bore holes to determine the extent of the rot. The greatest risk is collapse of the tree, so it is wise to remove some weight from

the crown for safety's sake. Keep an eye on its health and settle for the fact that its glory days may soon be over. You should consider planting more.

A skimmia planted in a north-facing border on clay soil is showing dead branches and yellow leaves. What should I do? J.A. Anderson, Iver, Buckinghamshire.

Skimmias are invaluable for their winter berries and glossy foliage. even if they are otherwise unexciting. Male and female plants must be planted to get berries. They prefer a neutral or acid soil of open texture. Is your clay very alkaline? I would replant it in a very well prepared hole, with lots of old compost to open up the soil, and dose it with Miracid, to help it cope with lime and to give it extra trace elements to conquer the yellowing.

A bucket-sized terra-cotta pot has been damaged by frost and is discoloured with a powdery surface. How can I improve the look? - Mrs M. Starks, Southampton.

The real hazard of A frost to pots is either bursting altogether, from pressure of frozen soil, or of the surface crumbling as a result of absorbed water being frozen.

A powdery and discoloured surface suggests salts in your water or compost crystallising on the pot. Limey water does this especially badly. A good scrub with soapy water may solve

In limey areas, the use of glazed (and expensive) Chinese pots solves this problem. On the other hand, in some circumstances, there is the attraction of lichen, and those older clay pots grow lichen less well than modern ones.

Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington St, Landon El 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any enclosure

What can you plant in a tree-shaded, dry-soil garden? Barbara Abbs has some beautiful answers



In the shaded garden of Anne Daniel's home at Lewes in East Sussex, euphorbias have seeded themselves around the stump of a tree artfully featuring a sundial

Shady characters with charm

somewhere in almost every garden, daunts the keenest gardener. In out-of-the-way places, such as the bottom of the garden, it can be ignored, used for resting plant pots and compost heaps. When the dry shade is at the front of the house, however, and visible to everyone who passes by, it is a problem that has to be tackled.

There are two types of dry

shade: areas beneath large

trees and those shaded by walls. The first is the most

A common solution in spring is to have plants such as snowdrops, winter aconites, Anemone nemorosa, and Erythronium dens-canis that complete their flowering before the tree's heavy canopy of leaves cuts out the sun and sucks moisture from the soil.

There are some interesting alternatives to this. The boldest is to leave the soil bare.

as in a small garden almost entirely shaded by, for example, a large copper beech: attention is focused on the majestic tree and the effect is satisfying. A simple ground cover of glossy, large-leaved ivy, such as Hedera colchica 'Dentata' also works well.

Anne Daniel's garden, in a conservation area at Lewes in East Sussex, is exposed to public gaze on two sides. Though permission was given to remove some of the surrounding conifers, the more important large trees, such as beech yew and sycamore, cannot be removed, making the garden heavily shaded in

Mrs Daniel has been learning about dry shade since the family moved into the house with its neglected garden three years ago. Then, the only outstanding feature was a walnut tree that had been blown down in the 1987 gale and left prone but alive. Now it is surrounded by a variety of euonymus.

Yearly mulches of well-rotted horse manure have en-sured the survival of most newly planted shrubs, in spite of the hosepipe bans each

Shrubs and trees that are doing well include Mahonia japonica, Fatsia japonica, Viburnum davidii and Elaegnus pungens 'Maculata'. That valuable Victorian standby, the winter-flowering laurustinus Vibernum tinus is thriving inches from the trunk of a sycamore, while a pyracantha produces its glowing berries not far from a heavy yew.

Purple Lunaria annua (honesty) and euphorbias have already seeded themselves around the stump of one tree, which has been artfully turned into a feature with the addition of a sundial.

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Roche Court is one of the few gardens in

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trees, garden walls and yew hedges that

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Whatever you plant, preparation is important. The garden designer Gertrude Jekyll employed teams of men to dig vast pits in the poor heathland sand at her home and fill them with an assortment of soft garden rubbish, good topsoil, road sweepings and leafmould so that she could grow lilies among the trees. Such excavation is be-

yond most garden owners but the principles remain. Dig planting holes as deep as you can and fill the bottom with organic material, compost, well-rotted manure or spent hops. Then, soak the plant well and fill the hole with water and let it drain away before planting, to ensure good rooting. The roots will still need watering for the first summer and, after the tree or shrub is established, you

with fertiliser. Even where new plants are competing with tree roots heavy mulching while the soil is damp helps. When the shade is caused by northfacing walls, mulching is even

should top-dress regularly

more effective Unfortunately, almost all the flowering plants recommended for dry-shade bloom in spring or early summer. But, the good news is that the best of them, such as hellebores and bergenias, are handsome in flower and leaf for much of the year. Helleborus foetidus is always perfect, while the colour range of H. orientalis cultivars expands yearly, with deeper purples, clearer yellows and richer reds. Bergenias have bold leaves in shades of maroon or green and flower spikes in white, pink and

crimson. Periwinkles, deadnettles, Euphorbia robbiae and Pachysandra terminalis are real toughies, but beware, they can get out of hand. So, too, can Lamium galeobdolen (yellow archangel) and Vinca major. I am particularly fond of Alchemilla mollis, fernyleaved Corydalis lutea and white C. ochroleuca but they. too, can become weeds.

o grow up shaded walls and fences, there are several old favourites, including the climbing hydrangea H. petiolaris; Chaenomeles speciosa, the flowering quince with flowers in coral pink, scarlet and white; the new Lemon and Lime' which is good against brick; Lonicera japonica 'Halliana': the tall canes of Kerria japonica; and Coto-neaster horizontalis, whose red berries look attractive right through autumn. All these plants should be set lft

away from the wall or fence. The golden cut-leaved elder. Sambucus racemosa 'Plumosa Aurea'. Philadelphus coronarius Aureus, and Milium effusum 'Aureum', a golden millet, are all as bright and

flower early in the year. The grassy millet seeds itself well. There are few annuals that do well in shade but Asperula orientalis, a pretty but little known annual with delicate fluffy flowers does, as do busy

lizzies or Impatiens cultivars. If you long for bright colour in your dry shade during the summer, a profusion of buzy lizzies in scarlet, salmon white, pink and mauve will

provide it for a long period. Other reliable flowering plants are foxgloves, Viola labradorica, Pseudofumaria (syn. Corydalis) lutea, the white P. ochroleuca,

Where the climate allows. Cyclamen hederifolium flowers in autumn, as does Liriope muscari, with its spikes of lilac-coloured beads. None of these have what could be described as blatant flowers.

so foliage is important. The bergenias, hellebores. cyclamen and, in spring, the golden elder and philadelphus, have attractive foliage. Mix these with the polished leaves of box and holly, Daphne laureola, Fatsia japonica and the variegated aucuba. another favourite of the Victorian shrubbery, for yearround interest. None of them will be too fazed by drought conditions once they are well-established.

Then, plant ferms. Hart's tongue ferms (Phyllitis scolopendrium cvs) come in a variety of forms, with ruffled or crimped edges to their long

strap-shaped fronds.
Other ferns for shade include Dryopteris filix-mas, the common Polypodium vulgare, and the hard fern Blechnum spicant, which all contrast well with the solid hart's

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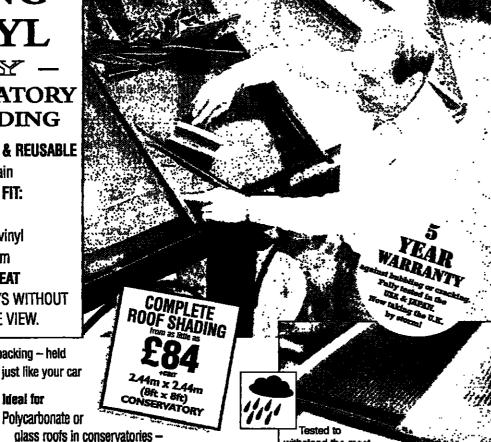
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■ Roche Court Sculpture Park, East Winterslow, Salisbury. Wiltshire **OPEN** THIS WEEKEND

Protect plants from the wind until established

an expert the kind of precautions to take (to keep off mice for instance). At no time of the year is a small detail of planting more effective than summer when plants are jostling for attention. The anemones, cyclamen, erythroniums, trilliums and quantities of others that you can admire at Broadleigh all illustrate this point. There a selection of the most distinguished mid-century sculptors, including Henry Moore, Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth (whose work is included at Roche), the marriage of their abstract works and the natural landscape was a leading driving force. Roche Court emphasises this point dramatically with the sculptures displayed in a setting with is a spring catalogue out now (send two first-class stamps to the above address) with many summer and autumn flowering bulbous plants, but go armed with a notebook ready to take tips. Mail order or pre-arranged sales only.

WEEKEND TIPS

■ Plant evergreens, including hedges, this month. Bare-rooted

specimens should be watered well over the next three months.

■ Under glass: sow asters, nemesia, petunias, marigolds and

Start watering pots of agapanthus; top-dress with rich compost.

sweet peas. Indoors: sow onions, leeks, celery and celeriac. ■ Mulch strawberries with well-rotted manure or compost.

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Part exchange your old ride-on or tractor mower for

climbers and wall plants. We even suggest gardens to visit for inspiration. We also honour that most English of favourities, the fragrant rose; we help with spring pruning to get your garden in trim for summer; and, among much else, Alan Titchmarsh has some down-to-earth compost recipes.

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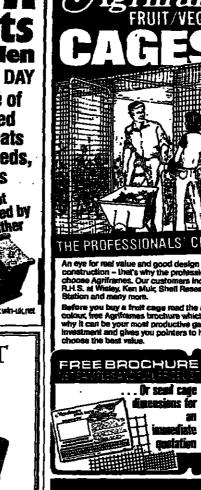
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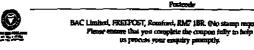


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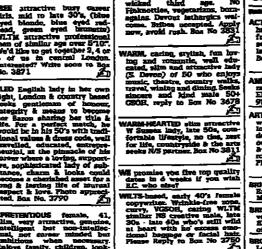
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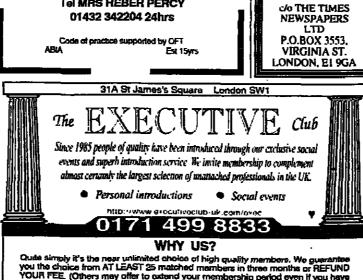
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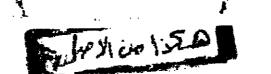
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'I expect the next generation will be horrified when a government report reveals that pigs eat worms and chickens peck for grubs'

This is another of those pieces harking back to the good old days, except that the golden age I have in mind is 1991. It was then, if you remember, that ladies running small country bed-and-breakfast establishments, committees running village halls and traders trying to earn a living out of a village shop began to live in fear of a knock on the door. It was yet another inspector armed to the teeth with new powers under the Food Safety Act.

This act was taken up with great zeal by Environmental Health officers across Britain, to the extent that the ice-cream ladies in our local cinema were considered to be "food handlers" and required to take a test to prove their working knowledge of hygiene. In a local public meeting, the big Chief Environmental Officer himself stood up and warned us in awful tones: "From now onwards, ! consider water to be a food."

I was involved because at the time I was converting pigs into sausages and, therefore, posed a potential grave threat to life on Earth; just the sort of operator the new laws were designed to control. I was never certain what these new

Wanted: self-washing cows for cloning did if you were a

regulations were trying to achieve. I may in the big, new, ap-be wrong, but I have no memory of a proved abattoirs the be wrong, but I have no memory of a generation being lost due directly to B&Bs having only one sink in the kitchen, nor have there been many fatalities from drinking village hall tea - not for hygiene reasons, anyway. But it was the law, and so we "food handlers" had no choice other than to embrace it.

We held a food hygiene course here at the farm, rather than travel miles to a college. I remember my wife laying out a cold lunch on the dining-room table, only to have it moved out of the way by the health officer, who replaced it with his lurid collection of photographs recently taken of condemned lavatories behind an Indian restaurant in Felixstowe. Few hors-d'oeuvres have been less successful in stimulating the appetite.

And now, six years later, we learn that it was all a waste of time. While we were worrying ourselves sick at the thought that death was only one bacterium away,

game was being played to a different set of rules. Despite inspection, regulation and the full force of the most restrictive rules that could be written, we know from an unpublished government report that some abattoirs operate in filthy

ways no one could

believe possible. So

let us now apologise to the small rural abattoirs who were the first to feel the full force of the new puritanism of the Nineties. Some were modest set-ups behind a butcher's shop, the traditional killing place for local livestock. There was not the money to rebuild, and they closed. Did it matter? It toirs and the butchers were innocents.

DOWN TO **EARTH**

cow, sheep or pig. While protesters were lining the docksides objecting to the shipment of live animals across 20 miles of English Channel. farms were loading and sending them on 100-mile journeys to new factory-style abattoirs, where the profits from production-line killing were

large enough to pay the costs to meet new hygiene requirements. Except that, as we now know, pushing up the profits by such things as over-crowded lines in many cases brought standards down again with a bump. We

I rang my old friend Charlie, whose slaughterhouse closed a few years ago. He now cures hams, "in operating theatre-like conditions". I asked him what happened to cattle that came in to his slaughterhouse for killing, caked in muck and filth of the kind this report outlines. His answer was simple: They were sent back again. You told the farmers it just wasn't on, and they got the message." That was the only control you needed: the local butcher telling the local farmer to get his act together.

T of many farmers needed telling, because animals arriving for the kill could be seen, and heard. It did not happen behind an industrial facade, it was a village business, and the villagers were their own food inspectors.

Food production is now screened from public gaze and the consumer so divorced from the way crops grow and animals are reared that the basic

principles of food hygiene have no relevance to them. The very idea that animals have backsides is shocking to them, and few can gut a chicken or a rabbit i expect the next generation will be horrified when a Government report exclusively reveals that pigs eat filthy worms, chickens peck for vile grubs, fish feed off sewage outlets.

Perhaps it is no bad thing that this report has reminded us all that potty training among cattle is not of the highest standard. The only hope now is that we are spared more legislation.

Possibly the best answer lies with the genetic manipulators. I suggest they make a heady cocktail of best bovine genes with a string of DNA from a strict. old namy so that the animals are born knowing they should wipe themselves and wash their hooves with soap and water afterwards. The resulting animal can be cloned.

That will release an army of inspectors who seem unable to spot a mucky backside when they see one, and they can, instead, come knocking on our doors and apologise for frightening the wits out of

Hooked on the wild brown trout

wild brown trout is one of the most beaubrown on the back, silver or gold on the flanks. white-bellied and sepia-finned; it is also dappled with red and freckled with black. It is vibrant and volatile, as long prized by anglers for its aerobatic fight as by others for its delicacy and succulence on the

The wild trout is also in retreat. The pressures on it are many-angled and relentless in the water, in the air and on land. It has lived for centuries in the shadow of its great cousin, the salmon, its course unlike that of the salmon —

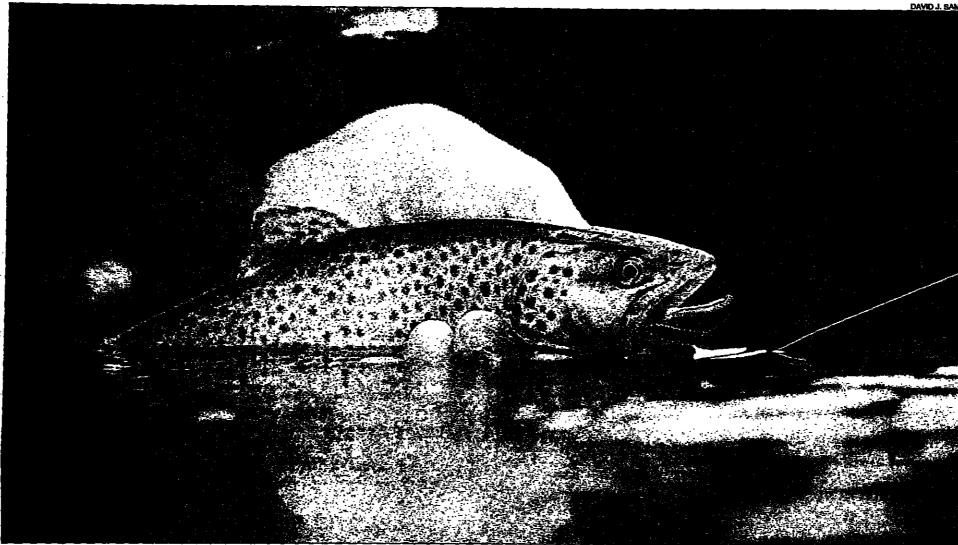
unsung. Until now. This month sees the launch of a national group dedicated to fighting for its welfare. The launch has been timed to coincide with the opening of the trout fishing season, which starts in many parts of the

country today.
The Wild Trout Society, whose founders include anglers, biologists, fishery managers, riparian owners, conservationists of many persuasions and representatives of environmental bodies, including the Environment Agency (EA), has set itself a formidable range of tasks: Its. aim is to put this relatively unknown creature on the national agenda; to identify and fight threats to its wellbeing and habitat, and to organise hands-on restoration work on individual waters holding wild trout. It will also try to persuade anglers - by far the biggest source of potential recruits - to return to the water more of the wild fish

Wild brown trout were once found pretty well everywhere. except the low reaches of the lowland rivers, and were present in many lakes into which small streams ran Over the centuries they have edged remorselessly back by a growing human population with growing

needs, carelessly pursued. Today, the strongholds that remain are mostly in the West Country, Wales, the northern uplands and Scotland, plus a few cosseted headwaters of rivers in the south. Even the great chalk streams of Hampshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire, gin-clear wonders of the countryside that more than 100 years ago saw the birth of dry-fly fishing as a sport, have relatively few wild trout left. It is farm-reared fish that most anglers pursue now.

As the new season starts, the battle is on to conserve one of the most admired of British fish. Brian Clarke reports



The beautifully coloured and patterned wild brown trout is as much prized by anglers for its volatile, aerobatic fight as by others for its delicacy and succulence on the plate

has been the poor relation on the agenda of those responsible for conservation and management," says Mike Weaver, a West Country writer, angler, conservationist and now chairman of the WTS. "We

have to change that. * "We also have to be down to earth. We have to identify those things that we cannot change directly, speak with one voice and lobby and educate for all we are worth. Then we have to identify those things we can physically do something about and get on and do them. We are going to

be a hands-on body." The WTS has already drawn up a regional structure and set up a scientific panel. It promises newsletters and information exchange and a yearbook to members. Ron Holloway, keeper of the remarkable Martyr Worthy beat

"All too often the wild trout of the Itchen in Hampshire, a chalk stream beat that has not been artifically stocked for 70 years, is to be the society's habitat management adviser.

> here is no shortage of issues for the society to tackie - many of the most serious being among the most intrac-table. Changes in land management are high on the list. not least because of their impact on the fish's ability to spawn.

Even the wild trout's upland strongholds have not escaped land management problems. Pine forests have been planted right to the edges of the tiny rivulets where hill trout spawn. One effect has been to deprive the water of light and the hatched young of the cover

and insect food they need. Another effect, subtle but deadly, is that concentrations



Mike Weaver: fighting the threat to the trout's habitat

of conifers, with their myriad tiny leaves, filter acids from the rain and channel it into the water table, through the roots, in a concentrated form. As a result, many hill streams have

in the lowlands, dredging to improve land drainage has grubbed out the gravel shal-lows in which trout lay their eggs. Ploughing and cattle grazing to the water's edge have caused banks to topple, soil to be washed downstream and spawning beds to become filtered, suffocating any eggs laid in them.

Abstraction has lowered water tables, causing some wild trout sanctuaries to dry up completely and others to flow more slowly, changing their characters. Abstraction combined with reduced rainfall has meant less dilution of insecticides and fertilisers sprayed on to farmland, and of toxic cocktails ending up in the water. Abstraction plus fertilisers plus hot summers has led to huge growths of algae that have choked water courses from bed to surface and bank

And all of this without a mention of pollution - industrial pollution - as most people understand it. The list goes on and on.

While it is lobbying and pushing for progress on these

longer-term issues, the WTS is planning projects to improve individual waters where it feels short-term benefits can

The first will be in Dartmoor National Park. Mr Weaver, who is a governmentappointed member of the Park Authority, has already won the support of his colleagues, and of the Duchy of Cornwall, the West Country Rivers' Trust and the EA to identify a reach of water holding wild trout that are already showing the first signs of population decline or condition loss. The aim is to identify any local causes of decline - even things as basic as damage to spawning sites downstream of

picnic spots — and to try to find remedies while public access continues.

The challenge of working in a public space is also the appeal," Mr Weaver says.

visitors a year. We cannot be elitist. We have to work in the real world."

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Other projects will follow and, as lessons are learnt, they will be passed on.

The Dartmoor project will have a flying start. Among those who have offered help is the team of biologists from Game Conservancy that has for years been studying the River Piddle, a tributary of the Frome, in Dorset. Wild trout have been caught, anaesthetised, tagged and then released, so that their subsequent growth and movements can be monitored.

The Piddle's banks have been sculpted, flows changed and channelled, spawning beds have been cleaned and

> 'It has lived in the shadow of its great cousin the salmon until now'

cattle fenced away from the water. The results, in populations and growth rates, have

been remarkable. the beginning. There are no quick solutions that will help the wild brown trout at large, because the degradation of its habitat is so widespread. And yet the National Rivers Authority, now absorbed into the EA, made progress on some wider issues. Projects like those on the Piddle, the Itchen and, hopefully, Dartmoor will tell us something about the short-term. The WTS will add a dedicated new voice. It may be that the current is begin-

ning to change. Many, and not only those anglers casting their first flies today, will hope so. The wild brown trout has been likened to the miner's canary: a ba-rometer of the health of the place in which it exists. Trout rivers and streams are only as healthy as the environment which surrounds them, the landscapes where we ourselves live.

● To become a member of the WTS (£10), write to the Wild Trout Society, PO Box 2903, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7AD.

Grebes' concerto for lovers

OVER LAKES and rivers, a shrill whirmying cry can be heard these March mornings. It sings out from somewhere in the reeds — a ripple of excitement, you might say, running not through a crowd but through a single voice. It comes from a bird that is more often heard than seen: a little grebe.

These diminutive diving birds lurk for much of their life in the reedbeds. In winter, they often go down to the sea, but most of them are back again now and preparing for the spring.

They moulted last month, and their

drab, greyish-brown winter plumage has given way to something much smarter. Their backs are dark brown. and their cheeks and throats are a bright chestnut-orange. When they come out on to open

water and allow a good view of themselves, little grebes are quite distinctive. No water bird has a more unmistakable stern. At its rear end, the little grebe certainly looks very plump, with its feathers often puffed up, and also very square. Seen from the side, it presents a straight line to the world behind it.

Little grebes dive constantly, looking for fish and molluses, and can move a long way under water before they surface again. Sometimes they just lift their head above the water, looking round before they come up. They can be over-ambitious, and occasionally choke themselves on a large fish such

as a miller's thumb. Their trilling call plays a large part

FEATHER REPORT

in their lives. The male and female sing duets to each other when they are pairing and mating. They face each other on the water, with their necks stretched up stiffly, and trill away. They also give presents of waterweed

nearer, they make platforms of reeds on which to climb up and perform their

In due course, one of these platforms is built up higher to become their nest. and here, in late April or May, the female will lay four or five white eggs.



Little grebes will spend much of their lives lurking in the reedheds

Like other species of grebe, if she leaves the nest she will cover the eggs with wet weed and, long before they have hatched, these will have become

stained and blotchy. Most of the other grebe species have elaborate ornaments of ear-tufts or ruffs on their heads and necks. Great crested grebes are now showing these off dramatically as the courting pairs face each other and vigorously shake their heads. On the other hand, the other grebes are generally silent birds.

Why are little grebes noisy and relatively plain, while their cousins are quiet but exotically feathered? It is probably because of their different habitats. Great crested grebes spend most of their time out on the open water, where their ornaments can be displayed to full effect when they are wooing or fighting.

Little grebes have adapted themselves to a largely hidden life among the reeds, where sound counts for much more than sight. It is an example of the usual economy we find in nature, where evolution has tailored every detail of life to what works best.

DERWENT MAY

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ON THE SPOT: WINDSOR GREAT PARK

Rural recommendations

sor Great Park, Berkshire. The view: Across the pond looking east: sandy, heathercovered shore, great beech trees, rhododendrons. The appeal: A quiet, hidden pond, with water lilies on which moorhens walk, and old alder trees hanging over it. I saw my first mandarin duck on it when I was a

schoolboy.

Aficionados: Walkers, birdwatchers, people drifting away from watching the polo on Smith's Lawn. Historical interest: Surrounded by early 19th-century parkland, with magnificent sweet chestnut trees. Nearby is the grove of oaks planted by representatives of the British Empire and Commonwealth to celebrate

the Coronation of George VI in 1937, with a different species from nearly every country. After 60 years, many have died, but some are tall and noble — like the colonies and dominions they came from.

Time of year/time of day to visit: All seasons are charming here, but in some autumns you can find a rich



harvest of beechnuts on the ground. I have a tree in London grown from a beechnut picked up here. The pond is attractive in sunlight and shadow.

How to get there: Turn off the A30 for Englefield Green and drive through the village to the Bishopsgate Lodge entrance to Windsor Great Park. Turn left at the path through the rhododendron bushes.

OS reference: 977715. Also nearby: Views to Windsor Castle and Royal Lodge, with a chance of seeing members of the Royal Family. The Fox and Hounds pub by Bishopsgate Lodge has good food.

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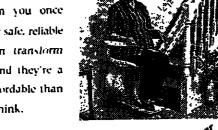
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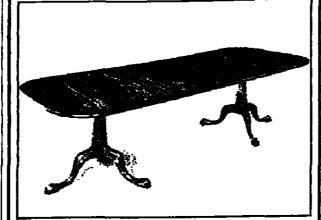
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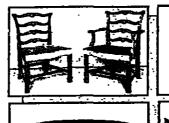
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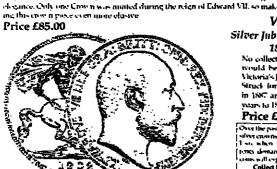
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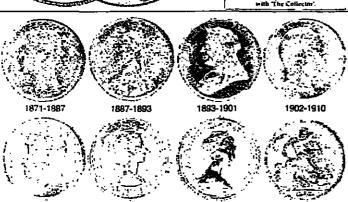
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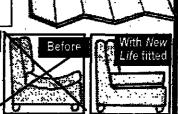
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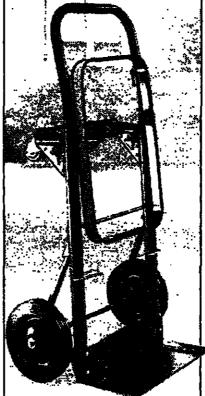




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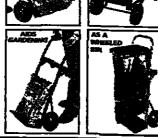
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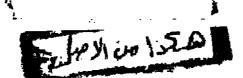
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Take a trip into the country-

side this weekend and you

will probably find evi-dence of one of Britain's most secretive inhabitants, the

A common breed, and definitely not worth protecting, flytippers are people who dump rubbish illegally.

Often town and city dwellers, they

choose quiet spots in which to off-

load their junk. And where better

The bucolic scene on the downs

near Brighton was recently spoiled

than the still of the countryside?

waste were left next to a footpath near Consett,

while a woodland near

Holsworthy in Devon

was contaminated by

raw sewage emptied

from a tanker lorry.

In Cornwall, a resi-

dent of St Just drove to

nearby open country-side and dumped car

parts, including a bon-net and doors. He was

unable to tell bemused

magistrates why he did

not prefer to collect the

scrap value at a proper

site and they fined him

£500. He was sponed

by a passerby who

rang the Environment

Agency's flytipping hotline and the

case was pursued, but other house-

holders escape punishment. These

town-dwellers seem to be happy to

leave their mark while taking the

family out into the country for a drive. Once in the rolling fields,

they open the boot and tip dustbin bags, furniture, toys, broken elec-

trical goods and rotting food there, among the green and pleas-

ant, is the green and not so pleasant damp and mouldering.

collection services, waste recycling

centres or landfill sites can per-suade the flytipper to be rid of their

waste legally, even though they face

fines and imprisonment. The Envi-

ronment Agency, set up in April

last year and working in conjunc-

tion with local authorities, is tack-

ling the problem but it seems some

people are still happy to rubbish

Kevan Davies is a Waste Regula-

tion Officer for the Agency's South

West region in Devon, one of

It seems no amount of refuse

Townsfolk are using the countryside as a convenient dumping ground for an

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Britain's most beautiful counties but blighted by flytippers. Those who dump come from all backgrounds, some commercial, many simply householders," he says. Whether it's a one-man builder, a skip company or someone with a lot of black dustbin bags, their aim

easier to fling the rubbish into a wood than take it to a dump." Waste officers, armed with syrange-proof gloves, search through rubbish for clues as to the perpetrators, and while townies are frequently to blame, according to

by a heap of used tyres. In Yorkshire 1,400 drums of toxic officers based near urban conurbadump rubbish too. Municipal Kevan Davies says: "It is very sad but the dumps are attitude seems to be. I'll just fling it in the

open when wood and someone else can clear it up"." people The majority of Brit-ain's household waste are at work can be got rid of free of charge through the and they refuse collection service - although dustmen in are fussy one Devon town may have been understand about what ably reluctant about taking away a plastic they take bag full of rotting deer

carcass. The agency be-lieves that the bag, discovered in woodland, was probably intended for refuse collection, being placed in a council-marked bag, but sometimes dustmen object to picking up certain types of rubbish. On the other hand, toxic and commercial waste does cost money to dump, the charge dependent on the quantity and toxicity.

ridget Norris, who works at the Agency's public relations office in Exeter, says there are two types of people to blame for flytipping those calculating people who want to escape paying to dump, and those who claim they are too busy to take their waste to a proper site. Either way they have no respect for the countryside."

Undercover surveillance is one way of beating flytippers. Kevan Davies and a colleague spent most of one recent Sunday night sitting on the quayside at Bideford after reports of dead fish being dumped in the harbour. They eventually left



TEST OU SEA

Flytippers face fines and imprisonment but are still reluctant to dispose of their waste legally, in spite of refuse collection services, recycling centres and landfill sites

and missed an estimated two van loads of waste - mainly small sour dogs, members of the shark family - go into the water. An evewitness was able to pass on details and a fish processing company is being

questioned by the Agency. Dead fish smell - but other materials are more dangerous. Waste diesel, oil and car batteries are a threat to health and regularly

dumped in the countryside, leaking

into the soil and waterways. Yet in the busy modern age disposing of rubbish can be timeconsuming. Conscientious people will make time to recycle but gone are the days when civic dumps were left open day and night and the public could simply turn up and sling a mixture of rubbish in a

the evening, sites may close at 7pm or earlier. On Sundays, some close

at lunchtime. These civic amenity sites, run by contractors, set their own regulations and can also be fussy about what they will accept. Tons of asbestos roof sheets sit on old sheds across the country, but try getting heap. In summer, when people are rid of one and you may have

often doing jobs at home late into difficulty. Because opening hours at sites can be inconvenient, junk often turns up in nearby woodland, indicating that people conscientiously set out to dispose of their rubbish properly, then spoil their good intentions when they cannot

gain access and slide it into the nearby undergrowth. It took more than a roll of Andrex It took more than a roll of Andrex
to clear up the sewage dumped in hotline. Call free on 0800 807060

Devon but the Forestry Commission, as a responsible landowner, did its best.

The public can do their bit too, by phoning the flytippers hotline with vehicle details if they notice anything suspicious.

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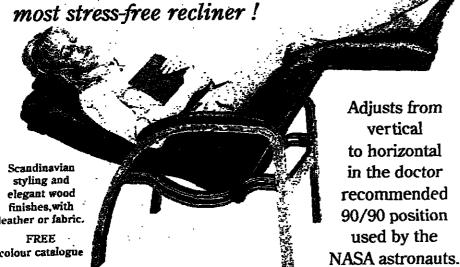


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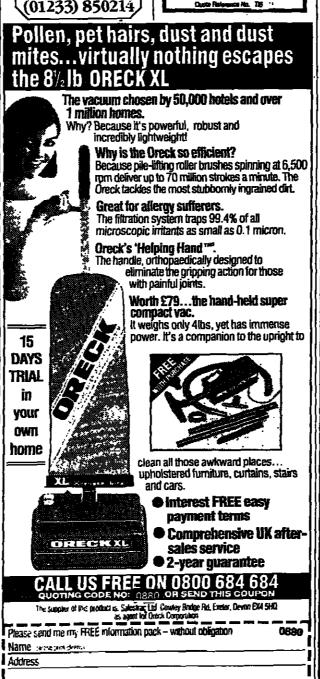


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Home is where the art is

ome may be where the hearth is: a place of privacy and escape. But for some it is becoming less of a retreat and more of a forum; a place which the jargonists might have already termed a multi-use environment. Work, social life, entertainment, exercise, worship: it all happens in the downshifted domestic interior, as if to prove the American wit's couplet: "Even home has more variety/Than I find

in case society".

A sew years ago there was the much-vaunted trend for cocooning. which basically meant staying in because you were too depressed. poor or mired in negative equity to go out. Now we have the scenario of the home being thrown open to the public stage, salon, art gallery, studio, amusement arcade — virtually anything one chooses really, as

long as it is fun or edifying.

It may even be financially rewarding, though letting strangers into one's home does require nerve. Johnny Morris, an artist and designer who lives in east London. decided to open his home under the title Gallery Ezra to sell his and his friends' prints. He put a sign outside, opened the door and siphoned off the Sunday morning pedestrian traffic that seethes along Columbia Road flower market on

Allowing the public into his home was not without its fraught aspects. "It was quite exhausting," he recalls. "I was working hard, going out on Saturday night and then having to get up at 8am to do the gallery. And having people walking round the flat with shopping bags was not the most conducive way to start a Sunday."

But everyone was very well behaved, apart from a drunken Who needs to go out for culture?

Homes are

opening up as art galleries, cinemas

and theatres

gatecrasher at his opening party, and the occasionally wayward local kids caused no trouble. "In fact," Mr Morris says, "people were incredibly polite and quite nervous." His flatmate was less welcoming. "He ate his breakfast sullenly with people walking around him, and thought there should be a rent reduction. I said there should be an increase because he had become famous." venture was also good for neighbourly relations, and was such a financial success that Mr Morris will throw open Gallery

Ezra again in spring.

A more full-time concern takes place a mile or so away in the atmospheric quarter of Spitalfields, east London, where Phoebe Tate and Gareth Harris recently opened a gallery in their Georgian house. Made to Measure, named after the previous tailor tenants, consists of a small room at the front of the house, which is to be dedicated exhibition space.

"We don't want a gallery as such," says Ms Tate, who used to work as an art consultant for Saatchi and Saatchi in Milan. "We are doing it as part of the house. and the fact that it is a domestic space is important." Their plan is "to make art more domestic".

"Nowadays much art is monumentally-sized and made for museums, but throughout history it has been made for homes," she says.

The building itself is part of the attraction, and a lot of their visitors are fascinated by the house. They have had to put up "private" signs telling visitors where they cannot go. But while they stress that entrance is by appointment only, passers-by may come in if it is

Their exhibition room will also be used for talks: Mr Harris, a silversmith and goldsmith, is also a guide for the Victoria and Albert Museum, and they plan to deliver historic accounts of the area over a glass of some appropriately anachronistic beverage such as port.

ringing culture into the home has tended to favour visual art, if only that paintings and sculptures are relatively manageable in the domestic context. But the actress Christie Jennings and designer Jane Heather have put on plays in their shared loft in Bermondsey. south London, with food and drink.

"It started because we wanted to put on more comic writing for women," Ms Jennings says. "Instead of complaining, we said why don't we do something? So we came up with entertainment at

Blessed with a large living room.
they create a stage at one end and
hire chairs from a banqueting
service for an invited audience of around 100 people. A bouncer-sized friend is installed at the door. Ms Jennings's bedroom doubles up as the dressing room, and they make sure that visitors have time to mingle during the intervals. This final aspect is crucial, for they have an ambitious guest list and invite all kinds of people.

"We thought we'd invite people of

influence, as it is a great way of getting noticed." Ms Jennings says. "If we'd hired a pub theatre, it would have cost thousands. This way you get more response in one night than in a six-week run in an upstairs room.

They are working on a couple of new productions, including The Fireraisers, by the German playwright Max Fritsch, and vignettes from Shakespeare, and this time they are thinking of charging to offset some of the £600 that each show costs. But there is never much

post-production trauma in the flat. contrary to the destruction a house party can wreak. All that is needed. Ms Heather says, is a certain amount of clearing up. "Luckily the landlord is sympathetic and even said he'd lower the rent." she adds. There may be hidden benefits to the open house beyond the joys of culturai exchange.

The sharing of a fantasy world may also be a part of the openhouse tendency. Norman and Valerie Illingworth of Wooton. Bedfordshire. have a cinema in their garage, where invited guests can sit in genuine velvet cinema seats and watch a motorised curtain unfurl onto a programme of archive film material: cartoons, newsreels, adverts. Mr Illingworth, 74. dresses in evening dress: Mrs Hillingworth, 56, acts as an usherette, and during the screenings icecream and popcorn are served. After the show, guests - who range from friends to groups from old people's homes - often repair across the garden path to have a coffee in the house. No money changes hands.

"We both used to work in the cinema and, like many others, we retained a permanent interest," Mr Illingworth says. Usually we know someone in the audience, and

they bring a bottle of wine and we have a party night. It's a fun thing." The creation of the atmosphere is the main point, with many authentic effects including a 35mm projector - a higher professional

standard than most home cinemas

week

 housed in the former coal cellar. The garage is known as the Picturedome, and has acquired a certain amount of local fame, despite the fact that screenings are not that frequent. The Illingworths. meanwhile, are simply pleased to be able to share their enthusiasm in the comfort of their own garage.

OLIVER BENNETT



A VET WRITES

I have a pond — there are no fish in it but a lot of snails and water boatmen. There are masses of frogspawn every spring but few tadpoles reach maturity. I'm sure something is eating them. Can I do anything to stop this or could I raise spawn away from the pond?

A Herons, seagulls and even blackbirds will snatch tadpoles basking in the shallows. And leeches could be a hazard.

Covering the pond with small-mesh wire netting will keep airborne enemies away. Hatching spawn in a bowl or tub of water is a practical proposition. They would need feeding on liver or meat and you should provide a gangway (a small plank of wood) so the semi-frogs can leave the water and breathe air when they are advanced enough.

The younger of my two cats has started to bring earthworms indoors as presents for me. What can I do to wean him from this habit?

This is his way of showing he loves you. A telling off won't work because he has achieved his purpose by attracting your attention. A wetting from a water pistol every time he approaches with his gift would persuade him that you are an ungrateful owner and these presents are a waste of his time and effort.

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Owners are often alarmed by the behaviour of their pets — but there are simple solutions

et owners worry. Pets don't. Animals can be frightened, uncomfortable, bored or lonely but they don't worry about the future, their personal appearance or what the neighbours think.

People often worry about normal animal behaviour. Top of the worry list — judging by the volume of calls to pet advice phone lines — is coprophagia, when dogs eat their own, or another dog's. faeces. Dreadful by our standards, but not from where the dog is sniffing. When a bitch keeps her puppies and nest clean by eating their faeces she is a marvellous mother.

But, there are other reasons for coprophagia. Pups in kennels mimic the older animals. Roled doss way eat laeces because there is nothing else to do. And some dogs are trained to behave in this way – inadvertently. Overzealous toilet training, punishing the puppy when a mishap occurs indoors, can teach him to hide the evidence of his crime by eating it.

Remove temptation by clearing up after him. Talk to your vet as there are medicines which will make their motions offensive to them. And teach your dog that the head of his pack (that is you) is delighted when dog faeces are ignored. Put him on a lead and walk him past one of his recent evacuations. Tell him to ignore it and, when he does, reward him with extravagant praise and his favourite titbit. A few dozen repeats and he will get

the message.

Coprophagia is a near essential part of rabbit nutrition, however. They have hard and soft droppings. The latter

DOGS

Worried about Rover



are eaten and provide essen-

tial vitamin B. Next on the worry list is travelling. Some owners are convinced their pet will suffer post-traumatic stress disorder unless he has a tranquilliser before any car journey. Tranquillisers cannot be switched off at journeys end. Dogs arriving in a strange place need to be in total command of their faculties. A half-doped dog can get lost or, as I have witnessed, sit in the middle of an unfamiliar road waiting to be run over.

Most dogs like cars. Finty,

my Staffordshire bull terrier, jumps in the car whenever the door is left open. In hot weather we have to take care she is not shut in and cooked. Some dogs are car sick, others get overexcited and become dangerous passengers. Most does can be converted into acceptable travellers. A car sick dog needs experience so work out how far he can travel without being sick and take him that distance every day for a week. Then go a bit further and so on. In three months he will travel indefinitely without any ill effects. The hyper-

excited dog may have been trained to behave in this lunatic fashion. Car journeys take him to the park for an exciting runaround. If he's walked to the park and then collected, journeys will end on a low note - back home and

nothing to get excited about. Sex is another worry which embarrasses many owners. Dogs perform on cushions, trouser legs and each other and not only the males. One bitch mounting another during an elegant tea party is guaranteed to bring the conversation to a halt. The dog

has to be taught that sexual misbehaviour is not popular. Dismissing the offender to his bed is the best way of pointing out the error of his ways.

mall breeds are the worst offenders. They are much more highly sexed than giant breeds who often need a book of instructions to tell them what to do even when the lady's willing. and a stud fee has been paid. Castration appears the obvious solution and there is much to commend it. It is not natural or reasonable to keep a fit and

healthy male animal in monastic seclusion.

How many times have you seen a dog or cat with an unkempt coat because their owner maintains they don't like being combed"? They worry about the tangled, knotted mess, but resent anyone suggesting they are neglecting their pet. Very few parents leave a child's hair uncombed because the child doesn't like it. Pets should be dealt with in the same way — told to sit still and endure it. If the coat is beyond owner-aid, a grooming parlour will sort things out and a filthy-tempered cat can be combed under anaesthetic

if necessary. Have a grooming session every day. Cats and small dogs behave best if they are placed on a table so there is no grip for struggling claws. New pet owners should start grooming a puppy, kitten or long-haired rabbit from day one so they will grow up accepting grooming as an enjoyable part of life.

The most ridiculous worry is about what the vet will say. "I didn't take him because he might say it is cancer/should be put to sleep/operated on" are some of the inexcusable reasons for neglecting ailing pets. Your vet advises you, and if you agree, treats the animal. The advice might not be what you hoped to hear but that doesn't make it wrong.

Seeing your vet won't alter anything. Incurable condi-tions will still be incurable. But it will relieve things that can be cured and put to rest worries that are without foundation.

JAMES ALLCOCK

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Non is 18 months old

SISTERS Nell and Non are 18-month-old pedigree sheep dogs who were brought to the centre before Christmas. They will need special care and handling because they are both deaf. Contact the National Canine Defence League Rescue Centre. Tondu Road. Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan CF31 4LH (01656 652771).



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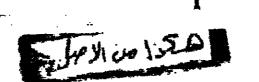
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She was trapped between the social services and the hospital authorities, with no one quite knowing what the other side was up to'

his weekend, my formidable 85-year-old aunt is in her own home year-old aunt is in her own home in Edinburgh for the first time in four months: a cork-popping event for our family, and one I did not think we would be celebrating. My aunt is very much my late father's sister— a fighter. hercely independent, and no great tolerater of fools, although rather less likely to natter an expletive under her breath when encountering them, since she is a

Pesbyterian and a devout churchgoer. It has been a long and frustrating haul since she went into hospital after a fall last November, only for a week or so, we al thought. But it turned out to be a protracted time of tests and assessments pioracted time of tests and assessments aid discussion groups, of ward changes aid thanges of new personnel, of forlorn carol, singing, the gifts of Christmas painsettias on her bed-tray giving way to the bunches of hopeful, early daffodis.

Of all the ways in which age could have chosen to diminish her this seemed hive chosen to diminish her, this seemed it be the cruellest. Her scholarship has ben the foundation of her life. Books and learning, travel and the Church have

Welcome home at last, auntie

been her family and companionship. She has defined herself by her doctorate in literature and her long years as a teacher. There have been no ball gowns and pretty compliments and hand-kissing for her. Nor, do I think, would she have cared for any of that malarkey. She would say, quite rightly, that a husband and children are not the only criteria by which to judge the fulfilment of a woman

or the happiness of a life. While her brothers left Scotland and married and had children of their own. she was the dutiful one who stayed at home looking after their mother and their mother's sister. Her womanly bloom faded in a life of devotion and caring. I can still vaguely remember her antique charges: two monumental women in black clothes, like corpulent, smiling crows, stuffed into their armchairs by the fire, talking about God's

baking". It seems to me a terrible thing - and if it is God's will, he is a hard, Presbyterian God indeed that because of distance and circumstance, when my aunt might expect her own family to care for her, we have been able to do so little. But that is not the only sadness.

Alzheimer's, dementia, forgetfulness, confusion, memory lapse - my aunt and I have discussed none of the above. For the one thing she could not bear would be to lose her marbles. Saintly she may be compared to

LIFE AND SOUL



Alzheimer's. My aunt's sense of impotence has not been to do with the diminution of her mental powers, but with her inability to persuade her doctors she is fit to go home. They want her to go

into a home, rather than back to her own.

most of us, but she does have this small

sin of pride. She wears her intelli-

gence as a badge of

Mercifully, my

aunt does not appear

to have been in the

"hard, dark place"

that Iris Murdoch described heart-

wrenchingly, shortly

before it was con-

firmed that she had

honour.

took the train up to Edinburgh - the two boys, my husband and I. The ward smelt of urine and cabbage. The patients, eyes closed or gazing into nothingness, seemed to be in a limbo-land between sleep and death. We saw my aunt before she saw us — a little old lady, shrunken

ه کدا من الاعلام

three times in exactly the same way each detail intact, each nuance and inflection faithfully preserved - and stroked the boys' hands. "And you, of course, are the musical one," she said to the unmusical one. I corrected her, very gently — it seemed more insulting not to but I wish I had not. "Oh, that is very wrong of me," she said, a look of pain on her face. "I should know that."

A woman placed a packet of biscuits on

into herself, sitting in a chair next to her

four times, looking slightly puzzled as each circuit was completed. My aunt no longer noticed such things, but I felt angry that she was surrounded by people whose wits had deserted them. When we left the hospital, my nine-year-old son said, "Why don't they do to old people what they do to dogs?*

As the weeks turned into months and my aunt could not find out what they intended to do with her, I could sometimes hear a new note of fear or

my aunt's bed, shuffled down the ward in her old slippers and returned to retrieve the packet. This she repeated three or

muffled panic in her voice on the telephone. She was trapped between the social services and the hospital authorities, with no one quite knowing what the other side was up to.

Now at last her flat, the one she once shared with her mother and her mother's sister, has been made into an impregnable fortress of safe fires and toasters and kettles against her old age and - how shall we put it? — occasional absent-mindedness. Welcome home.

Dad's weekend dilemma

How far one parent should indulge the children is a tricky balancing

at, as Adrian Mourby can testify

irst thing tomorrow morning I'll be up at the folk museum, bright and early, swelling the ranks of the midde-aged men, and bemusing tie curators once again. It neve ceases to amaze the staff at StFagan's that they do their best trade of the week on Sunay mornings. But it does t surprise me one bit. Heri, after all, is a small cafe and a playground, both of which open up long before anything else in Cardiff.

O course no one is much inteested in the reconstructed nor the authentic working commill, but the

climing frames are ositively alive Bathtime with wriggling children and there, always on tie benches behinethem, sit rows turns into of very tired-looking nen in their Billy thirties and earlyforties. Smart's

Circus

weekind fathers, men who were up all right trying to scrap their child-

cumulative effects of a trip to the cilema, late-night dining at Mclonald's, bathtime that turnedinto Billy Smart's Circus and five games of tickle monster up and down the stairs. It about 11pm last night the wekend father probably sat down with a bowl of instantbasta and fell asleen in front d the TV, only to be woken at half past six this morain by several children who wanted to know when the

fun wastarting up again.
A lot of weekend dads are divorced men who only get one or two days a week to children, but not all by any means. My wife and I have an arrangement whereby every six weeks or so she goes to visit friends to have time off from demanding children and an

equally demanding husband. On the first of these solo stints I made the acquaintance of old hands like Moelwyn Owen, whose wife goes sailing one weekend in three, and Simon Redman, whose working week involved long hours at the office, frequent trips away, and a very tired wife come Friday evening. Simon has always been a firm believ-17th entury tannery nearby. er in giving "Her Indoors" some well-earned rest at the

weekend and, over the years, he has explored all the regular haunts in his home town of Farnham. "Early on Saturday morning our local swimming pool is full of dads with their children," he says. learner's pool be-

fore midday." Weekend fathers ren of the ceiling after the are invariably people who do things with their children. A woman left to amuse her children will be capable of staying in the house with them for a little while, even sitting down for a few hours, but men usually have to get out and be active. Simon and his two daughters have their routine which includes McDonald's, the pool, the swings and his personal all-time favourite: the Bat and Ball, not a game at all but Farnham's child-friendly pub which not only offers food that children will eat but a wonderful climbing frame and

eight real ales.



Simon Redman with Catherine, left and Siobhan, believes in giving his wife time off at weekends. "But you have to be careful not to become Daddy Bountiful"

II, and Cainerine. seven, but he recognises that a weekend father has to be careful. "I've spent a lot of time negotiating with the Transport & General Workers Union but they're a pushover compared with two girls who reckon they

can get concessions out of dad. "The problem is that it's very easy to walk in on Friday evening and not recognise what Mum has managed to hold out against all week. You can see them thinking 'Oh. a new potential benefactor, let's see what we can get out of him'. You've got to check back all the time before saying yes and really resist the temptation just to be Daddy Bountiful." Simon has been a weekend primary carer ever since his daughters were tiny Simon values the hours that and he takes most things that

he has with his daughters. fatherhood can throw at him been known to plan the odd impression of the kind of sorry for," Simon says. "You hours I was so worried they in his stride. The only prospect that can make his heart sink is a birthday party. That means dropping one child off with a present, filling in time with the other one, and then back to pick up the first daughter."

> ther weekend fathers are not as easy-going as Simon. Muelwyn is one of those I've often seen at the tolk museum. When he has his boys to himself the rules about what the four of them do together are much stricter. "It has to be something that I want to do too. No point being an entertainments officer. I also try to avoid amusement arcades and fast food."

Simon is much more relaxed about indulging his daughters but even he has

Saturday afternoon around a can of lager in front of the TV when there's an international match on. This is when a canny weekend father will have built up his network of similarly placed dads. "I'll have someone else's children to play while he watches the grand prix and another time

he'll help me with my two when there's a match on at Twickenham," Simon says. Both Simon and Moelwyn nevertheless try to make the most of this time with their children. Simon says: "If, like most London dads, you don't get home until seven or seven thirty you're not only missing out on them growing up. you're also failing to meet their friends. That's where the weekends are important

because you get a much better

WORLD VOUR Children are living in when you see who they spend their time with."

Moelwyn believes that his sons talk to him a lot more when their mother isn't around. "When you're the only parent on call you get to hear all their little fears and anxieties, whereas when their mother is at home they'll talk to her about some things and me about others."

Both men are seasoned weekend carers and in their different ways they pace themselves. The ones to watch out for are the new boys on the block, men who haven't gone solo with their children before, or the fathers who are feeling guilty about the events that have left them in sole charge of their offspring.

"It's the divorced ones I feel

can see them trying so hard and what they're saying all the time is 'Don't you have a better time with me?"

Moelwyn is more critical. These men are trying to assuage their guilt and buy their children's affection." Certainly, in my case, I

had our two for a solid 48

in Disney World. That was when I met know that the first weekend I

Moelwyn. "You want to relax a bit," he said to me as I looked anxiously for the ice-cream van. "When their mum comes back she wants them reasonably sane."

might miss their mother that I

crammed in more fun than

you might expect from a week

Ruth Gledhill attends a Mothering Sunday service run by the controversial vicar, Eve Pitts

Daffodils and hymns amid the graffiti



AMID the bleakness of the sprawling estate, it was easily missed. I drove past it several times, not realising that the tiny, drab, one-storey brick building with shoing roof and graffiti-covered

bown door was the place I was seking. There was no signpost, no ntice of services and it was named ater no saint, or at least none that arpears in the church's calendar. Not until I saw a grey-haired man

paning a piece of paper to a council bilard, directing traffic across a read of rubble into the estate, did I ralise that the building I had dsmissed as a garage or storage hut was in fact the Church of England in Druids Heath, the place where Eigland's first black woman team year, the Rev Eve Pitts, has been consigned to serve out her licence. Since Mrs Pitts, supported in the ongregation by her three children aud her husband Anthony, arrived hre in December the congregation his blossomed from a dozen to more

<u>tl</u>an 40. One, Sheila MacLennan, has ben attending church here every neek for 25 years. In that time she his seen the Roman Catholics and Ciristadelphians build new clurches for their communities, but estreaties for a new Anglican clurch building to serve the 2.000-



The Rev Eve Pitts, England's first black woman team vicar

plus families on the Druids Heath estate have so far been unsuccessful. Instead, the members of the established church make do with the council-owned community centre. unless they own a car or can endure the wait for a bus to take them to the 13th-century parish church of St Nicolas, about a mile away.

Many of the congregation were refugees from St Nicolas, having made the journey up the hill from the more comfortable surrounds of Kings Norton to support Mrs Pitts, who formerly ran the morning

family service at the main parish church. The Bishop of Birmingham. the Right Rev Mark Santer, sent Mrs Pitts to Druids Heath and asked her to resign as team vicar of the Kings Norton group of churches after she stood up in a pew during a service at St Nicolas last year and accused the team rector, the Rev Martin Leigh, of using her "as a

doormat". Apart from referring at the end to the "wounds" suffered in those present over the past weeks. Mrs Pitts made no mention of the dispute

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which has made headlines in local and national media.

This was Mothering Sunday, as well as the Feast of the Transfiguration, and backets of yellow daffodils glowed at the front of the hall as the straightforward communion service progressed. Later, these were handed round by children to the congregation. Mrs Pitts gave us a warm welcome "It is good to be here once again in the house of the Lord," she said. 'It is always good when God's people come together. So let us be silent as we contemplate the main

reason why we are here in God's presence this morning." Our pianist, Ray Aldington, had been leading the ringers at St Nicolas at their morning service and was late, so we sang the first two hymns unaccompanied.

Mrs Pitts. an impassioned and inspired speaker, reminded us of the Gospel commandment: love your neighbour as yourself. "There is no other commandment greater than this." she said. In her sermon she combined the two festivals, first acting out with great humour the biblical story of Hannah pleading with God for a child, and the subsequent fate of the son she was given, Samuel. A civil servant before she was ordained, she has a gift for oratory. "We all know that Samuel grew up to be a wonderful man," she said. "So you see, God is never, ever short of surprising us."

Earlier, visiting St Nicolas, a church of impressive and historic heauty, it was easy to see why anyone would want to be vicar or rector there. But I could not help reflecting that Druids Heath needs Mrs Pitts and her congregation more. Maybe this unfortunate dispute will in succeeding years come to provide just evidence of the mysterious workings out of the purpose of God.

• Manningford Hall, Manningford Road, Druids Heath, near Kings Norton, Birmingham, West Midlands.

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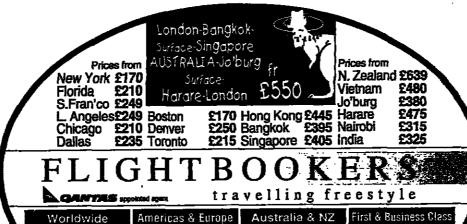


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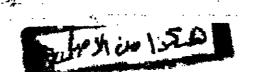
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You need an Olga to clear your path

Alexander Chancellor, visiting Russia for the first time, would have been lost without his guide

around St Petersburg — let us call her Olga — was nice but big. I had been warned about this when I was met at the airport by one of the other members of staff from the travel agency. Olga would be picking me up next morning at my hotel, I was told. How would I recognise her? There would be no problem, was the reply. She vas, well, very large,

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I first saw Olga squeezing herself into a segment of the revolving door of the Grand Hotel Europe. A few seconds later she spun out into the lobby, where I was waiting to meet her. She was a young woman in her twenties but broader than any babushka. Out of consideration for me, if not for the chauffeur whom she held pinned against his door, she let me sit alone in the back of our car during our travels: around town.

She was an intelligent and interesting woman who had given up a job as a lawyer to look after her baby and who was totally committed to the new capitalist Russia which had allowed her and her husband to buy their flat, own a car and take holidays in Finland. She was terrified that the communists might some time return to power and take her flat away.

had never been to Russia before, and after a day or two I realised how dependent on Olga 1 was. Russia may now be eager to attract jourists, but it still does not make life easy for them. The Grand Hotel Europe is excellent — reputedly the best hotel in Russia — and it is where President Clinton stayed on his visit to St Petersburg last year. But it is expensive and, being Swedishowned and managed is far

from typical. Unless you can speak Russian (and I cannot) it is hard to get around without an interpreter. Hardly anyone can speak English and Russians as a rule do not seem keen to help foreigners. Even getting into museums is not easy. There seem to be various different kinds of ticket and mysterious bureaucratic rules administered by ill-tempered babushkas who know not a word of any foreign language. You definitely need an Olga to

clear your path. Even in the Hermitage, the former Imperial Winter Palace which houses one of the world's greatest art collections, much of the labelling is only in Russian. Without Olga, I often would not have known what I was looking at. Her only defect as a guide was a tendency to switch suddenly from intelligent conversation into a robotic patter when describing some tourist attraction. This must be a danger for all guides who have made the same tours a thousand times,

he guide who took me especially if they used to be employed by the old communist travel agency Intourist.
St Petersburg is just as beautiful as it is cracked up to

be, but it is best to forget the appalling cost in human lives exacted by Peter the Great in his sudden whimsical determination to create, in 1703, a new capital in the remotest corner of his empire. It has been estimated that about 100,000 workmen died during the first year of construction. They had to work without food and without tools, carrying earth around in their smocks.

What they created - on a network of rivers making St Petersburg almost as watery as Venice — is a baroque city of great architectural beauty and serenity, but lacking perhaps the warmth and geniality of Western cities of that period.

The Tsars are partly to blame for this. They could not control their yearning for grandeur and opulence. When



Russia does not make life easy for its tourists

you tour the Hermitage, you cannot understand why the revolution came so late. How much gold leaf, alabaster and lapis lazuli does a monarch have to acquire before a people decides to put its foot down? You ask the same question with even greater force when you visit Francesco Rastrelli's amazing 18th-century Catherine Palace at Pushkin, south of St Petersburg, where more than 105,000 kilograms of gold were used to decorate the façade, gates and garden statues and then almost immediately wore off.

I was in St Petersburg during the summer period known as the White Nights. when it is not supposed to get dark. In fact, the sky goes a gloomy sort of grey after midnight and is fairly dark a couple of hours after that. Nevertheless, you tend to stay up late and walk up and down

Nevsky Prospekt - the city's long and imposing main street wondering what to do.

You stick to the busy Nevsky Prospekt because the guide has warned you to avoid the might be mugged.

There have been so many reports of crime and violence running out of control in Russia since the collapse of communism that the timid visitor is given to perhaps undue caution, since at no time in either St Petersburg or Moscow did I stumble into any menacing situations. But then, you usually do not if you are being cautious.

Surprisingly, given St Petersburg's pleasant summer climate, it has few pavement cafés, but there are some good restaurants. I particularly liked the Adamant, near St Isaac's Cathedral at the bottom of the Nevsky Prospekt

The Russians seem to be rather good at creating brandnew "traditional" restaurants which look as if they have been there for 100 years, and the Adamant — a compelling name — is one of them. The place is charming and cosy, the food is good and the service friendly. But I had to wait 45 minutes for a bowl of borsch. Despite the free marsia is still painfully slow.

For all his efforts, Peter the Great did not manage to create a convincing capital city up there next to Finland. St Petersburg may be Russia's centre for rock music and it may, like Moscow, have a thriving malia whose members are identified by their fast German cars and indifference to red traffic lights; but it feels provincial. As soon as you arrive in Moscow, you are struck by the different order of bustle.

The ancient Russian capital has become since communism, like a giant, chaotic bazzar, full of McDonald's. Pizza Huts, British-style pubs, cheap Italian restaurants and other Western nonsense. I stuck my British plastic card into a wall and extracted thousands of roubles from a cash dispenser (and you need a great many thousands since the exchange rate is about 8,000 roubles to the pound).

Moscow is an ugly city, though there are buildings within it of extraordinary beauty and spiritual power. The big surprise was St Basil's Cathedral in Red Square, a church endlessly photographed and used as a backdrop by television reporters and therefore it can seem overfamiliar. In fact, it is quite

Russian Orthodox churches are extremely beautiful and especially intriguing to the Western eye because of their deliberate rejection of symmetry. They also come in large groups. Within the Kremlin, for example, there are many churches, including three ca-

thedrals. Monasteries may contain half a dozen or more. It is worth visiting the Novodevicty Convent in Moscow a marvellous ensemble of loth and 17th-century religious buildings - and the monastery at Zagorsk, 45 miles northeast of the capital. For 500 years this was Russia's most important pilgrimage centre Moscow so much that he and accommodates at least seven churches within its walls. The worden dolls-inside-dolls are made there, including ones of the British and, in 1712, he made St Royal Family all packed inside

ut there are other things to entertain the visitor to Moscow — the bars, the casinos, the general hubbub. In the Old Arbat, a pedestrianised street full of hawkers and street musicians, I had the option of having my photo-graph taken with the following props: a horse, a bear, a monkey, an eagle or a snake. My departure was preceded

by a visit to the opera — a vulgar production of La Traviata at the Bolshoi - and dinner at the Metropol Hotel next door. On the wine list of the humblest of the hotel's several restaurants was a bottle of Petrus costing \$2,950, obviously intended for a Russian mafia millionaire to impress his girls with. It is a bit of a shock, going to Russia from the West and feeling poor.

Skyline of St Basil's Cathedral in Red Square, Moscow, built in 1550 and still full of extraordinary spiritual power. Left: a wooden doll of Boris Yeltsin When you see this magnificent city with its Imperial palaces, its squares, it is hard to believe that it could have been created on the whim of one man. But that is precisely how St Petersburg was born. Peter the Great disliked ordered this whole new city to be built on a wasteland of marshes and islands. He then forced the Russian aristocracy to move here Petersburg the capital of Imperial Russia.

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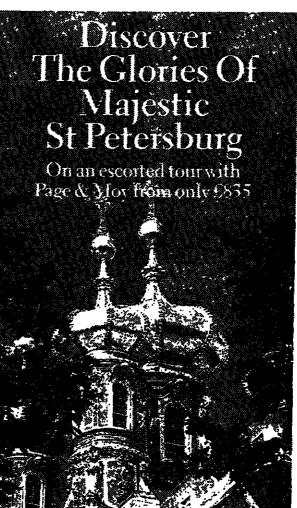
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century by Charles Cameron.

Day 4: Hermitage Museum We devote the entire day to the Hermitage. the magnificent art gallery housed within the Isar's Winter Palace which was established by Catherine the Great as the private art collection of Russian Royalty. Here you can see many of the world's finest paintings as well as incomparable. collections of gold, pottery and classical

Day 5: Alexander Nevsky Monastery; Peter and Paul Fortress This morning we visit the Alexander Nevsky Monastery and the cemeteries



Day 7: Petrodyorets We spend our last morning at the country pulace of Petrudyorets where flowers and fountains tumble down the terraces to the Gulf of Finland below. The palace was built by the Italian architect Rastrelli under the command of Peter the Great. You will see the original throne and oak study of the 'Isar and the portrait gallery of Catherine the Great. The coach then takes us back to the city where you are free for the rest of the day before the late afternoon flight home.

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RUSSIA FACT FILE

Wisitors should carry ID at all times, incidents of mugging. theft and pickpocketing are increasing especially Moscow and St Petersburg. Tourists are advised to dress down, be vigilant. beware of groups of young vagrants, and to keep expensive jewellery, watches and cameras out of sight.

Visas are required.

■ Seek medical advice before travelling

Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 52ht)) recommends: Petersburg, by Andrel Bely (Penguin, 17,49). ()ne Hot Summer in St Petersburg, by Duncan Falkowell (Vintage, £6.99). St Petersburg, by Rob Humphreys and Dan Richardson (Rough Guides, £8.99).

where Tchaikovsky and Dostovevsky are buried. In the afternoon we go to the oldest building in St Petersburg, the Peter and Paul fortress. If you wish to re-visit the Hermitage, an optional four will be available in the afternoon,

Day 6: St Petersburg You are free to enjoy looking around the city by yourself or your tour leader will be available to arrange sightseeing visits.

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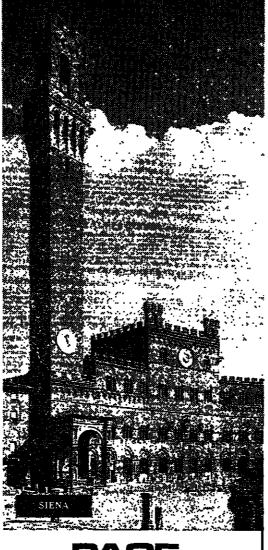
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America: Way down upon the Mississippi, a 'hell on earth with bells attached'; plus sailing in Chesapeake Bay

King Cotton's bawdy nights

memories on the River Mississippi, changed hands so regularly in the 18th century -French rule one year, British the next, then Spanish to American - that it gained a rakish reputation as a spy town. It had beautiful women. dashing mariners and louche bawds. It was the darnedest place south of Philadelphia, and it even had its own sovereign: King Cotton.

These days Natchez has not changed much in size. While other such towns have grown into huge conurbations, Natchez has retained its dusty, har-tipping airs and still has a population under 20,000. There is little night life, the river, once packed with trading barges, is muddy and empty, and the locals sit around chewing toothpicks and jawing. The one thing Narchez does have is a selection of Gone With the Windstyle antebellum houses. which is why we went there.

Arriving from Britain you

are struck at once by the elasticity of the spoken vowels. The houseboy (yes, he was black, but the term somehow fitted all the male staff, regardless of colour) at the Monmouth Plantation greeted us with delight and entered into an amusing discourse about the guest facilities, rules and a basic history. Palladian and proud Monmouth, built in 1818, was the home of General John Quitman, an early Mississippi governor who served with valour in the Mexican War. Or rather "woa".

Our houseboy may well have been hamming up the drawl, but it was fun. So was our room: a four-poster bed and creaking floorboards. The handle on the old door was loose as an old terrier's teeth and the furniture looked antique. The house was hought in recent years and largely restored by a suntanned couple from California (the lady of the manse has hung her photograph in a golden frame on the first landing, a spectacular monument to her taste) and the limited number of main-house bedrooms has seen augmented with garden mischief to the waterfront, and



Evening horse-drawn carriage rides are a feature of Natcher

cottages. The plantation will organise evening horse-drawn carriage rides of Natchez.

The Monmouth is not the grandest of the mansions of Natchez, but it is well-appointed, has a lovely back porch area, with balcony and wicker chairs, and the dining room is splendid. Diners sit at one long table, which is adorned with silver, good china and linen napkins. The conversation one night was sparky, the next night dull, but the food was good both nights.

The drive from New Orleans airport to Natchez takes you through gentle coun-tryside, but with fewer people and a warmer climate. If passing by, stop for coffee in St Francisville, a historical grace note of a village which was once an independent country.

This being the South, the food includes scone-style "biscuits", gumbo stews and "grits" (a little like porridge) for breakfast, best eaten with a knob of butter and some salt. Cotton made Natchez

wealthy, and it was the de-mand for labour that supported old South's slave trade. . New Yorkers, if they hear mention of Natchez, are still inclined to call it "the capital of racism", but that is clumsy and unfair. Natchez people are civil and respect history. Down by the waterfront you can almost smell the history. Natchez under Hill, as this area is called, was notorious for its loose morals as rivermen took their pleasure.

Today, two casino river boats have restored a sense of there is a good bar in which to brace yourself for the walk back up the hill. From the top, as you gaze down on what remains of once thriving Silver Street, it is hard to believe that this was the fleshy, raucous place described by a 19thcentury writer as hell on earth, with bells attached".

Natchez was discovered around lo82 by a Spanish Soto. It is a place that wallows in its history, and our bedroom reading included a thick biography of the Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Some of the stories illustrate the toughness of early pioneers.

mong the more dis-tinguished antebellum mansions, are Stanton Hall, which was built by a doomed Ulsterman, and Longwood, a circular creation which was brilliantly innovative for its time but never completed. Both houses are briskly run by the Natchez Pilgrimmage Garden Club, a society of matrons who escort tours with wit and an elegant heel.

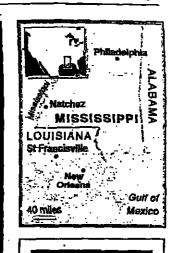
The sorry story of Long-wood, left half built by workmen who fled north at the start of the Civil War, is the stuff of a book but is also, perhaps, a metaphor for what happened to Natchez. Antebellum, its mansions grew. Postbellum. the caravan of history moved out of town, leaving modern Natchez all the more likeable.

OUENTIN LETTS The author was the guest of Monmouth Plantation.



هكذا من الإعلام

Natchez is the darnedest town these days; not what it was. Even the old gas station has been turned into a restaurant



FACT FILE

Northwest Airlines (0990 561000)) flies from London to New Orleans. via Detroit from E327 return; from New Orleans to Natchez is about three hours' drive. Alternatively, the same airline flies from London to Jackson from E327 return; Jackson to Natchez is a two-hour

To hire a car at the airport, you will need passport, driving licence and credit card. Expect to pay from about £30 a day.

Monmouth Plantation, 36 Melrose Avenue, Natchez (0800 964470, or 001 601 442 5852), from \$125 (about £75) a night to \$350 for suites, including full Southern breakfast. Dinner is \$37.

■ Reading: Natchez — Mississippi Old Glory, by Jonathan Raban (Picador, £6.99\. Life on the Mississippi, by Mark Twain (OUP, E5.99). The Smithsonian Guide to Historic America: The Deep South (Distrib. Tiptree, £11.99).



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estuary sailor on your 24ft A yacht of mature age, which you have anti-louled and glass-papered ready for launching in our sub-Arctic May, it is a fair bet that you fantasise about a big 40ft Bermudan in blue water with the temperatures in the 70s.

There is, indeed, such a wonderland. It is attainable at a cost, which is cheaper per night per sleeping berth than a night's B&B in a British pub. The place is Chesapeake Bay on the eastern coast of America: 200 miles long, mostly less than 20 miles wide. Baltimore dominates the northern end of the bay and Newport News guards the Atlantic Chesa-

peake is user-kindly to the cautious weekend sailor. The difference be-tween high tide and low tide is about a foot and a half, so there are no ripping currents in contend with. If you do something

silly and run aground you are unlikely to rip the underside of your boat on the muddy bottom. The bay makes its presence

felt on a grand scale. The two bay bridges — at the southern extremity and across the mid-bay near Annapolis — are engineering wonders. About 20 rivers flow into the bay, all of them the size of the Thames at Tilbury. Together, they add up to 3,100 nules of coastline, most of it navigable. You could spend a lifetime exploring the creeks and crannies. And what poetic names the rivers have a mixture of Indian and English evocations left by the early immigrants: you have the Sassafras, Choptank, Wicomico, Tred Avon, Potomac, Patansco. Pocomoke. Patuxent. Miles, Chester, Servern, Elk,

Gunpowder, Magothy. Beautiful coves and anchorages abound and there is usually 8ft-10ft of water near the banks, so the yachts can snuggle up to the tree-lined shore. There are splendid marinas, with every conceivable comfort: power sockets for the yacht, easily accessible water lines, ice-dispensing machines every few yards, swimming

and cocktail bars.

A night's berthing in a marina costs about \$2 (about £1.25) a foot length. Or you can drop your anchor in a beautiful quiet baylet, bordered by the elegant, columned mansions which suggest serious old Yankee money and which have fast powerboats and 40ft ketches moored alongside. Or, again, you can pick up a mooring buny 20 yards from the parade ground at the United States Navy Academy at Annapolis and, as you enjoy breakfast, watch the midshipmen and women doing their morning drill.

Herons and ospreys are abundant. The ospreys nest atop the navigation heacons and take no notice as your vacht slides by 15ft away as they are giving their chicks a fresh fish breakfast. But stop your boat to get a better picture and Mother Osprey raises

out of the nest and

spreads her wings, making a menacing statement. The only qualification required by the charterer Sailing Emporium is to fill in a questionnaire on safety issues, particularly collision avoidance.

n busy weekends, the Maryland Environmeni Police keep an eye upen for yachties, who have over-indulged the grog ration. They ask to hoard to

inspect the ship's papers. On one such visit, my crew managed to get the gin and tome bottles stowed away in time, though a bowlful of limes might have looked suspicious to a trained eye.

My daughter was ready with a line if we were questioned about this. "We were just taking precautions," she would have explained, pointing to the limes, "in case we had an outbreak of scurvy."

DAVID NICHOLAS

■ The Sailing Emporium, PO Box 597, 21144 Green Lane, Rock Hall. Mardana, USA 21001 (00) 410 778 1342 (0.00) 10 778 33-40 Yachis can be hired from \$1.300 (£775) a week for a 34-fonter.

re-written in the early 1990's with the opening of the Main-Danube Canal, thereby allowing large, passenger river vessels to navigate the rivers of

Sea to the Black Sea. During the summer of 1997 the newly launched 'Amadeus' will be undertaking a series of voyages linking the cities of Amsterdam and Vienna on a 14 night cruise along the Rhine, Main, Main-Dantibe Canal

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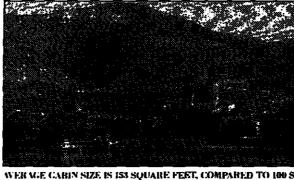
The Amadeus will be under charter to an American cruise operator for the summer season and the prices. shown reflect a saving of at least £700 per person off the normal tariff.

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ITINERARY IN BRIEF

DAY I Landon-Amsterdam by morning scheduled flight, Embark MS Amadeus, Afternoon free, Suil at 22,00 hours. DAY 2 Cologne Cruising the Rhine:

Arrive Cologue in the evening. DAY 3 Koblenz-Rudesheim Sail past Donn to historic Roblenz for a morning walking tour. Sail through the dramatic Rhine Gorge to colourful Rudesheim.

arriving in the late afternoon. Guided tour. DAY 4 Frankfort-Aschaffenburg Leave the Rhine at Mainz and sail to Frankfurt. Canded exentsion of the city and drive to Seligenstadt to reheard the vessel.

DVI 5 Wiltenberg-Warktheidenfeld Explore the delightful Franconian town of Miltenberg on a walking tour and sail in Abilitebjettikell of nooreils, oils DAY 6 Wurzburg Morning cruising the Main. After lunch arrive in historic Wurzhorg. Tour the city including the magnificent Residential Palace.

DAY 7 Romantic Road-Hassfurt Drive along the 'Romantic Boad' to Bothenburg. the most perfectly preserved medieval navn in Europe, Cruise to the hamlet of Hassburt for an after dinner stroll.

DAY 8 Bamberg-Nuremberg Cruise past wonderful scenery to Bamberg one of Germany's loveliest cities. Continue on to Nuremberg for an overnight mooring. DAY 9 Nuremberg-Reidenburg Explore Nuremberg on a guided tour and drive to Hilpolistein to rejoin the Amadeus, Cruise the Main-Danube Canal to medieval

DAY 10 Regensburg-Passau Join the excursion of Regensburg, a fascinating and beautiful city. Afternoon sail the Danube to the city of Passau.

DAY II Passau-Grein Tour the sucient fairytale Bayarian city of Passau. In the ulternoon sail into Austria for an overnight mooring at Grein.

DAY 12 Melk-Vienna Sail to Melk with its beautiful Baroque Abbey, Later sail through the Wachau Valley, without doubt the must seemic section of the Danube in Austria. Arrive in Vienna in the early evening. DAY 13 Vienna Morning city excursion including the Holburg Palace and St Stephen's Cathedral, Optional afternoon excursion to the Schonbrunn Palace.

DAY 14 Vienna-London Disembark after

breakfast and return by scheduled flight.

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Indonesia: You can be both jungle hunter and bon viveur in the country where wildlife meets nightlife.

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have always regarded adventure holidays, like working breakfasts, as the introduction of unnecessary effort to a time when the minimum should be expected of one's body. Indonesia changed my mind. It is a country where the traveller can be Joseph Conrad after breakfast, voyaging by sampan through reefs; Orde Wingate in the afternoon, ploughing through the jungle; and Sir Stamford Raffles in the evening, enjoying a gin sling in air-conditioned comfort before dinner.

And cocktail hour, even for the laziest of lounge lizards, has a special charm if the first sip of sundowner follows a full day drinking in the sights of Asia's most diverse nation.

The traveller who wants to combine wildlife with nightlife should venture north and west in Indonesia, as I did, to the island of Sumatra. A long banana of land which bisects the Equator, it mirrors Indonesia in its diversity with around 12 different peoples as well as its own elephants, rhinos, tigers and, most famously, orang-utans.

I concentrated on exploring northern Surnatra, making the regional capital, Medan, my base. A rapidly growing town, its distinctiveness rests in the collection of Dutch colonial buildings in the centre. Typical is the palace which belonged to the Sultans of Medan. Muslim princelings who were Dutch puppets, their home has been restyled as a museum.

As someone who likes game rotten and stilton runny, I was charmed by the gentle decay of the palace; the skewwhiff portraits of turbanned and frock-coated sultans, the sepia daguerreotypes of scheming relations and the throne with a cushion bearing the imprint of too many visitors' bottoms. The melancholy appeal of the palace is all the greater because one wing still houses the current sultan's family. The womenfolk knit on the

verandah as dusk falls.
For all its charm, Medan is more

base than destination. From its precincts, it is only a couple of hours along not-so-beaten tracks to the rainforests of the interior. Guides are necessary, obliging, charming and cheap. My own, Anwar ("as in Sadat, sir"), spoke better English than most London cabbies and smilingly endured a long trek at tropical temperatures without a gulp from the water bottle (it was Ramadan) but always with an eye for the unexpected.

He drew my attention to butterflies larger than any a European comfield could boast, monkeys travelling through the trees like acrobats and glorious wild flowers just off the jurgle nathway.

just off the jungle pathway.

The highlight of my time in Sumatra was a trip, by foot, rope bridge and canoe to the orang-utan rehabilitation centre near Bahorok. Baby orang-utans are kidnapped by poachers, sold as pets and performing curios, and then abandoned when they become too large to cosset and control.

o wean them back to the wild, a slice of national park has been given up to allow rangers to feed them in view of the public while they relearn the laws of the jungle.

Orang-utans were held to be degenerate humans when first encountered and, observing their care for the young, their sympathetic features and their gentle habits, it was easy to understand the early explorers' error; given how they have been treated by humans, it is we who are degenerate.

One delight denied early explorers but available to the modern traveller is Indonesian nightlife. Medan is no Bangkok but it is all the better for it. After a hard day on foot nothing is nicer than travelling by trishaw (a cross between sedan chair and sidecar) to an old colonial bar for an old colonial drink.

Appetite whetted, there are any number of restaurants where a succession of courses, all delicious, will only gently dent the wallet



The first explorers to see orang-utans thought they were degenerate versions of human beings

while stretching the stomach. Indonesian cuisine has the inventiveness of Chinese, the spice of Thai. superior seafood and a tradition of large servings.

After Sumatra, I travelled to two islands which offer a more conventional tourist package. Batam and Bintan lie just south of Singapore and have become playgrounds for that republic's new rich. Batam is still developing its appeal but its combination of some of the cheap-

est high-tech shopping in the world, flawless golf courses and karaoke bars out of *Miss Saigon* has already won it thousands of Singaporean fans and made it an

authentic Asian holiday resort.

Bintan caters more explicitly for Western tastes. The south of the island is a treasure-trove of 18th-century Malay civilisation, the north has been transformed into an extensive beach resort with sandy expanses, jetskiing, scuba diving

and newly sculpted links.

Bintan's gentle greens are the perfect place to recover from the Sumatran wilds. It is Indonesia's charm that it comprehends both attractions and the longer the traveller has to enjoy both the more rewarding any trip will be.

MICHAEL GOVE

• The author was a guest of Garuda Indonesia and the Indonesia Tourism



Michael Gove flew courtesy of Garuda Indonesia, which offers a twice-weekly service to Jakarta from Gatwick on Mondays and Saturdays from £534. From April there will be flights on Wednesdays. Reservations can be made on 0171-486 3011 or

be made on 0171-485 3011 or 0161-834 3747. Cheaper flights are often available through travel agents.

Garuda Indonesia
Holidays (01753 687676) offers tours of Java, Sumatra and

Bintan. Seat-only fares to Jakarta or Bali start from about £500, with seven-night all-inclusive holidays from £600.

Singapore Airlines (0181-747 0007) offers a midweek return fare to Jakarta at £580 plus £10 airport tax. The offer ends on March 31.

£580 plus £10 airport tax. The offer ends on March 31.

Michael Gove flew to Medan from Jakarta by Merpati, the internal airline of Garuda Indonesia. It flies daily and prices start from £140 one-way. Further information is avalable from Garuda on 0171-486 3011.

I His intinerary was sponsored by the Indonesia Tourism Promotion Board and arranged by Pacto Tours, PO Box 7966, JKSKM, Jakarta 12370, (00 62 21 719

6550).

A reliable alternative to Pacto is Universal Tours and Travel. in Jakarta (00 62 21 690 1669).

Further information from

the Indonesia Tourist Promotion Office, 3-4 Hanover Street, London WIR 9HH.

■ Travellers who are not with Pacto but wish to visit the

orang-utan rehabilitation centre at Bohorok, North Sumatra, should contact Vayatour, also in Jakarta on 00 62 21 380 0202.

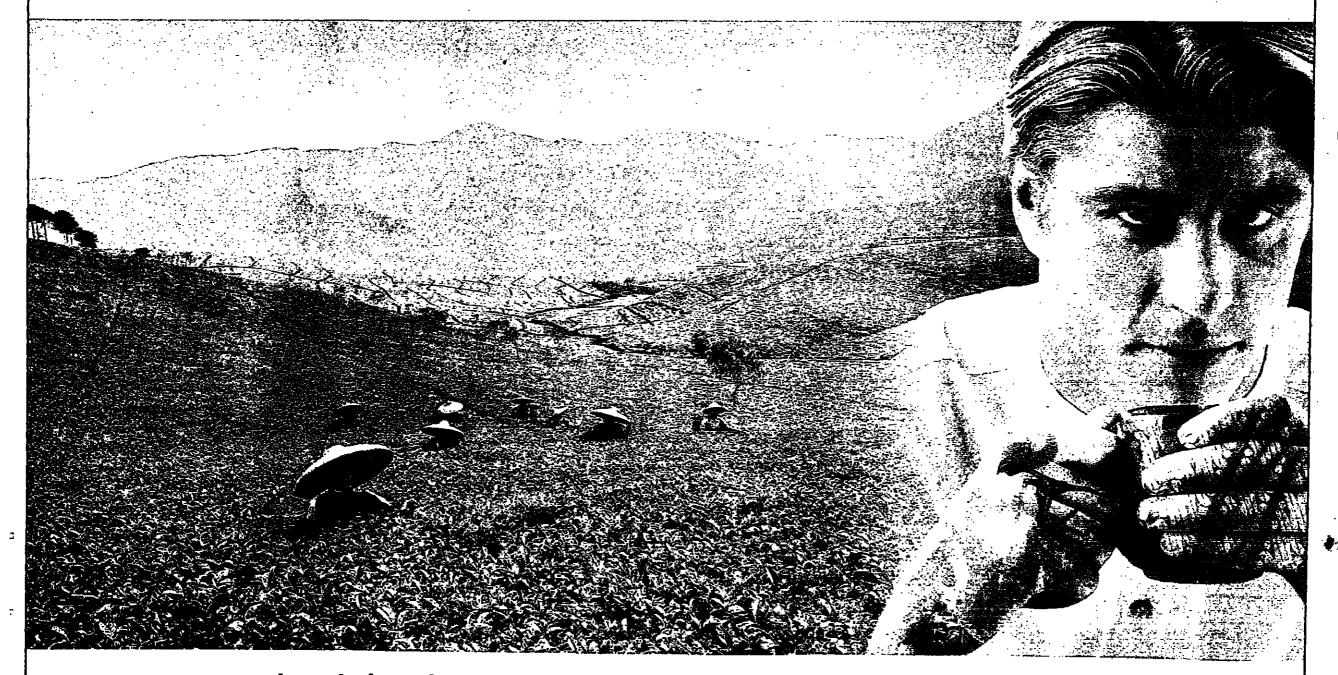
Malaria pills are a must.
British tourists need not apply for visas in advance but passports must be valid for six months from the date of entry. As a (gently) Muslim country, dress should be modest everywhere except the beach. Pickpockets abound in the cities.

Reading: Indonesia —
Sumatra: Its History and
People by Edwin Loeb
(OUP, £15.95). Coolie by
Madelon H. Lulofs (OUP,
£5.95). Sumatra, Periplus
Adventure Guide (Periplus,
£11.95). Islands of Indonesia by
Violet Clifton (OUP, £9.99).
An Empire of the East by
Norman Lewis (Picador,
£5.99). Malay Archipelago by
Alfred Wallace (OUP,
£13.95). Indonesia Handbook
by Joshua Eliot (Footprint
Handbooks, £14.99).



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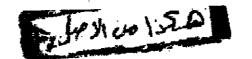
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INDIAN ESTA

A WORLD ALL ITS OWN

12 do need to To arise at Promption Board.

Control of the second



lands and a multitude of different tribes and influ-

ences. One day we could

be thrashing our way through

the buzzing cauldron that is

the rainforest of North Suma-

tra, trying to fight off leeches to

of the birds.

atmosphere.

spoilt my lunch.

and battered for about 20

metres down the river before

our shrieking guide dragged

Acehnese derive from leeches.

they are unreservedly friendly

people. And nowhere else is

Sumatran Islam more deep-

rooted or more open. This is

most evident in Banda Aceh.

the provincial capital; it is a

town of stark colour, where the

long black gowns worn by the

women flit past the high white-

washed walls and the

mosques emblazoned in gold.

hardworking Muslims and

their simple lifestyle to travel

to Lake Toba, home of the

mostly Christian Toba Batak

people. They seem to be the

most laid-back of all Suma-

tran tribes: waiters will sit and

drivers do their shopping

while you are waiting in their

taxi and all the shop-owners

ask you how much you want to

pay for a particular item. When you see where they live,

however, it is easy to see why

they are so relaxed about life.

It is one of the world's

biggest and deepest lakes, cool

and clouded because of its

high altitude. In the middle of

It was strange leaving these

me from the water. He was far more amused than I was to find what was probably the same family of leeches still stuck to my Despite the hilarity the

olony in the Caribbean, the Conservation initiatives are pro

beaches are powder white sand an the cool green WARMED BY MORE THAN THE SUN 0171-491 7771

the echoing sounds of the monkeys and the exotic songs The next day we could be sitting peacefully at the pinnacle of the 9th-century Buddhist temple. Borobudur, absorbing the sun sinking behind and silhouetting one of its three encircling volcanoes. The richness of Indonesia's culture and geography makes ours seem pale indeed in comparison. We travelled from North Sumatra to the province of Aceh, a Muslim heartland almost completely covered in rainforest. The jungle creates its own intense atmosphere: the constant cackling of monkeys, the nattering of birds and the occasional deliberate crack as a gibbon or orang-utan moves around high above in the sweltering foliage of the forest floor. The jungle was heavy with noise and On a day's trek in the rainforest, more noticeable than the intense heat was our constant itching. When we finally stopped for something to eat I removed my shoes and socks to find an entire family of leeches bulging with the blood that they had sucked from my ankles. This rather Already feeling drained, I then attempted to cross some rapids where the bridge had collapsed. I was swept away

Borobudur, the magnificent 9th-century temple carved out of black rock, which has 504 Buddhas adorning its exterior, its nine levels represent the nine stages of Buddhism

Lake Toba are the steep, green, treeless cliffs of Samosir island which project from its blue waters. Almost the size of Singapore, the island was created by two massive volcanic explosions thousands of

years ago. There are a large number of small settlements among which are scattered Christian

then travelled the villages along its coast to visit the monuments and see more talk to you at the table, taxi Bataks — who were invariably reclined with a newspaper and a cigarette. Yet finally, at the village of Simanindo, we found some action in the form

> of a dance for tourists. Utterly out of time and also out of step with each other. 20 or so miserable-looking Bataks of all shapes and sizes pranced about at random to an unearthly din, which was created by four more Bataks who were clattering wood on

Finally, the audience was invited to join in the dance. The answer was an embar-

rassed but resounding "no". The chants and dances supposedly symbolise prayers to God. I imagine those taking part were simply praying to be out of their extravagantly flamboyant earb and to be back indoors carving souvenirs or even - and more likely

watching television. We left the island and headed to West Sumatra. Unlike the Bataks, the Minangkabau society is matrilineal whereby the eldest female owns all the property and money and these are inherited through the female line. The women consequently seem far more confident than other Sumatran females and there appears to be a remarkable sense of sexual equality.

INDONESIA FACT FILE

STA (0171-361-6262) has flights to Medan via Kuala Lumpur or Singapore from £587 return. There are student/youth flights to Kuala Lumpur from £419, with a connecting flight from £110. Or fly to Penang from £517 and take

Garuda Indonesia has a twice-weekly service to Jakarta from Gatwick. Seat-only fares to Jakarta start from about £500 with seven-night inclusive holidays from about £600. Reservations 0171-486 3011 or 0161-834 3747.

■ Tour Operators that feature Java and Sumatra include Garuda Indonesia Holidays (01753 687676) and Premier Holidays (01223 516677).

per night usually including breakfast.

■ Adequate guest houses cost from £2-£7

Just 15 minutes from Bukittinggi, at Batagak village.

evenly matched buffalo engage in some kind of bavine boxing match. The two animals are made angry, then lock horns, clashing frantically, often mutilating the head of their opponent. Finally, one bolts, pursued into the distance by his screaming owner who is followed by another buffalo, to the great amusement of the crowd. The word Minang-

kabau actually means "winning buffalo". By now we were ready for Lake Maninjau. A smaller but more serene version of Toba. we found the water ideal for swimming and the climate and scenery were conducive to relaxation and meditation. From the minarers around the

Traditional costumes are extravagantly flamboyant

Buy a small phrasebook of Bahasa Indonesia. lake the word of Allah murmurs in the breeze five times a

recommended.

...but where the 20-year-old backpacker is told that he is doomed and is publicly humiliated as a footballer

At least the leeches appreciated me

every Saturday at 5pm thouday across its still waters. sands gather to watch two We accepted an invitation to a friend's home village five hours from Padang, set re-mote and high in the Marching mountains past Solok. The people there lived a combination of staunch Muslim and Minangkabau culture. Their ancestors had fled to this remote area many centuries ago so as to escape from white settlers. We felt rather anxious, being the first whites to visit the village for many months, but the inhabitants were hospitable and intensely

interested in our presence. Within two days we were drafted into the local soccer team to play the next-door village. Expecting nothing more than a kick-around, we arrived to a packed stadium with as lively a crowd as at any

Manchester or Liverpool match. Their evident anticipa-

Itineraries can be

arranged by Pacto Tours.

PO Box 7966, JKSKM Jakarta 12730 (62 21 719

Further information: Indonesia Tourist

Hanover Street, London

WIR 9HH(0171-493 0030).

Promotion Office, 3-4

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proof of return or onward

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generally from April to

October.

Knowledge of English cannot be relied on.

No inoculations are compulsory but a

course of malaria tablets is strongly

mely nervous.

tion about their two new signings made us feel extre-Despite visions of Roy of the Rovers before the match, optimism turned to humiliation.

Every time we got the ball, a much faster and fitter Indonesian would tackle us to the groans of the crowd. The commentator, who never quite mastered our names, sounded

more passion than either The Eagles or Eric Clapton. We were made to feel simultaneously both within and

tuned ones, can play

very much outside of the culture, always welcomed by the young but often shunned by the old. I felt it was sad that so many of the glowing and animated eyes of the young would soon become so stern and disapproving.
Travelling from Sumatra to

more like a school PE teacher,

screaming as we were tackled

again and again. We felt

totally responsible for the 3-0

Despite our performances,

however, the children still

spoke to us, bombarding us

with references to Western life,

primarily about music and

football. We had already real-

ised it was imperative to know

the words to the songs Hotel

California and Wonderful To-

night. Any Sumatran who can

hold a guitar, of which there

are an abundance of hadly

these tunes with as much

competence and undoubtedly

Well to SD

Jakarta was rather like being plucked from an empty, silent desert and dropped into the centre of a noisy and claustrophobic city. Jakarta's towering glass skyscrapers and sea of interconnected symmetrical highways were a far-distant cry from Sumatra's breeze block huts and mud tracks. Java's forested and volcanic countryside is scattered with

innumerable, crowded and animated settlements. The

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 27

HEGIRA (a) The flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Yathrib, 16 July, 622. Yathrib soon came to be called Medina, the City of the Prophet. From the Arabic hejira the departure.

PHALANX (c) The hantle order of the heavy infantry (hoplites) of ancient Greece, made famous by Philip of Macedon and Alexander the Great. The hoplites with lances of 16ft length or longer and with shields joined, were drawn up in from 12 to 16 close parallel lines. Alexander used a 16-rank formation, the first five ranks carrying their spears horizontally and the remainder carrying theirs across the shoulder.

CAMILLA (b) In Roman legend a virgin queen of the Volscians. She helped Turnus against Aeneas. Virgil (Aeneid, vii, 809) says she was so swift that she could run over a field of corn without bending a blade, or make her way over the sea without wetting her feet.

BELTANE (c) In Scotland, May Day, from the Old Scotch. Gaelic bealtainn, the derivation is uncertain but it is not connected with hual. Also an ancient Celtic festival when bel-fires were kindled on the hilltops and cattle were driven between the flames, either to protect them from disease, or as a preparatory to sacrifice.

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stone representations of each still exist on the outside walls. The whole area is like

Wisna and Shiva and ornate

something from The Lord of the Rings. Ash-grey clouds of unbearable sulphur bubble up from the nearby mud ponds. vet the same element is the reason for the dazzling colouring of Lake Warna.

It is understandable why Semar cave, which overlooks its vividly shaded waters, is an ancient place of meditation.

At this cave we met a Muslim who had been fasting for 42 days. He was a rack of bones with a sheet wrapped around his stomach, but his constant grin made me aware of his contentment; he was without any material desire.

is odd appearance and mystical tone assured me that he was about to make some revelations as to my destiny. When he blandly told me that I was doomed. I was obviously vexed but then I thought that he might well have been at the lootball

In need of a spiritual uplift. we went to the temple of Borobudur. Built in the 9th century, the temple is situated on a large hillock about 1km square. The thick forest below stretches into the distance to the slopes of the three volcanoes which cloak the horizon.

The temple's nine levels, forming a pyramid, represent the nine stages of Buddhism and its black rock is intricately embossed with many Buddhist symbols: 504 Buddhas adorn its exterior, which leads upwards to the central pinna-

Batak cannibals hunting in the Sumatran rainforest. Minangkabau religiously ploughing their lakeside pad-dy fields or Javan sultans dealing in the Jakartan stock market: the host of different cultural and ethnic groups in Indonesia seemed to a Westerner to have three things in common: their love of satellite television, clove cigarettes and karaoke.

Moving on from Bandung The Indonesians I met were to Yogyakarta was like experinever happier than when encing a Hindu-Buddhist pilwatching a dubbed martial grimage. The temples at arts film on MTV with micro-Dieng, Borobudur, Mendut phone in one hand and clove and Prambanan help to exfag in the other.

plain the spirituality of Java. WILLIAM GILROY The collapsed remnant of an The author was assisted by ancient crater, Dieng plateau STA, the Student Travel is 2km above sea level. Five Association and the Indonesia temples at its centre stand to Tourism Promotion Board.

Cox & Kings

shabby swarms of becaks

(rickshaws) and street-sellers

intermingle with the reds and

whites of elegantly dressed

schoolchildren.

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reservations are made to avoid disappointment. THE ELEPHANT HILLS HOTEL Three knis from the roar of the Falls, Elephant Hills is unique in both style and location, providing a



sophisticated casino, the hotel provides a

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Belgium: An hour and a half across the sea, prepare to be surprised by the Flemish love of the good life

Keep looking up – but don't fall in

e have still to get used to the idea of how easy it is to cross the Channel. And I do not mean just to France and just by the tunnel. My recent excursion was by the catamaran service from Ramsgate to Ostend, a 90minute journey for what used

to take more than four hours. This part of Europe or, more particularly, the Flemish sector which cuts out Brussels, is little known to British tourists who somehow cannot bring themselves to believe there are delights so close to home. Prepare to be surprised. Belgium combines the northern European respect for a smooth, trouble-free way of life with the southern love of good living.

Starting with Bruges, a mere quarter-hour train ride from Ostend, I felt like a time traveller pitched back some 500 years. Bruges made its name and wealth as one of the great trading centres of medieval Europe. In the 1300s, merchants gathered here from all over the Continent and beyond to buy Flemish cloth made from English wool. It did not last. The river link to the sea became a mud flat and was never cleared.

Bruges enjoyed a brief revival in the 15th century when the Flemish school of artists led by Jan Van Eyck, who are now on view at the Groeninge Museum. created a subtlety of tone and colour that still amaze. But, thereafter, decline set in until the age of tourism. Now Bruges is praised as one of the great survivors, a living model of the transition from medieval to Renaissance culture. You can see it in the cobbled streets lined with gabled houses and from the stone bridges over the patchwork of canals, but most of all you can see it in two neighbouring squares, the Markt and the Bourg, which command the town centre.

The imposing façades of civic buildings tell their own story but pride of place goes to the Markt Square Belfry, a typically Flemish symbol of power and privilege. The re-ward for climbing 365 steps is a panoramic view. The reward for staying below is a peel of 47 bells (total weight 27 tons), a resounding proclamation of past glories

A stone's throw away, the Bourg has within its compass, so it is said, the progression of architecture from the 10th to the 18th centuries. This is a bit of a cheat because the 10thcentury cathedral no longer exists, but the foundations are here and on view on the lower levels of the Holiday Inn.

This archaeological find, revealed only a few years ago when the hotel was being built, has been wonderfully restored to double as a small



museum and as a subterranean venue. Unfortunately, Holiday Inn is not too keen to reveal its hidden depths to non-paying customers. But public access is part of the deal with the city council. Just bowl in and make for the down staircase. From a luxury of choice, the other must-see of the Bourg is the Town Hall. one of the earliest in the Gothic style, with a vaulted central hall that is a riot of colour.

Belgium is renowned for culinary excellence but Bruges is special because the setting is so exceptional. My treat was dinner at the Duc de Bourgoyne which is close by the canal with an outlook of Venetian splendour. I had langoustines in a delicious artichoke sauce followed by brill with asparagus. The meal came to £40 with half a bottle of good bordeaux an additional E15. To economise is not necessarily to lose on quality. A three-course menu at the Restaurant de Stove on Kleine St is less than £20. Gino and Erica, a husband and wife partnership, give the friendliest of welcomes. Like everyone in the restaurant trade they speak excellent English, not to mention French and German.

My next stop was Ghent just half an hour from Bruges by train. Ghent is a busier version of Bruges. Their early histories overlap and both thrived on the cloth trade, but while Bruges settled for the quiet life, Ghent adapted to the age of industrialisation as well as preserving its history.

ake in the view from St Michael's Bridge which frames the three great towers of St Nicholas's Church, the Belfry and St Bavo's Cathedral which is medieval with a baroque interior — an extraordinary mix of the sombre and the flamboyant. The cathedral is home to the

best-loved Van Eyck, The Mystic Lamb, a collaborative effort with his brother Hubert, of whom little is known. Of the six panels of this majestic work, one is a copy which replaces the original stolen in the 1930s and never recovered. In trying to detect the fake, look out for the rider who bears a striking resemblance to Leopold III, Belgium's pre-

war monarch.
Good advice in Ghent is to

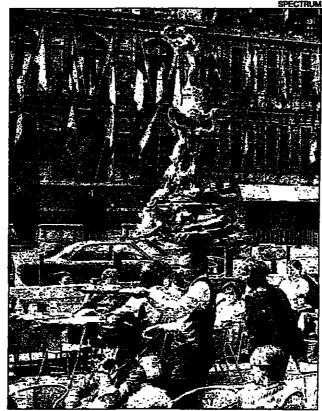


keep looking up. Above the shops and restaurants are splendid façades, not all of great age. One of the delights is the discovery of art nouveau and art deco exteriors in little side streets where the houses cling together at odd angles as if for mutual support. We had a leisurely lunch for about £40 at Cour St Georges, a restau-rant in one of the oldest buildings in Ghent where the speciality is waterzooi, a rich creamy chicken and vegetable dish that is a meal in itself.

Just a short way on from Ghent, Antwerp is different again, a city of quiet charm and surprising attractions, at once a thriving community (Antwerp is the centre of the world's diamond trade) and a powerful draw for visitors who take pleasure from a cultural heritage that is as rich as it is varied. Antwerp came to prominence in the 16th century when it was the commercial and intellectual capital of Europe. It has had its ups and downs but without ever losing its identity, so today its people think of themselves as belonging to a city state rather than just a city.

This sturdy, some might say stubborn, independence shows in a succession of grand buildings including a rail station that looks like an oversized cathedral, Europe's only rival to Grand Central in New York. The real cathedral, a Gothic reach to heaven with vaulted chapels and vertigi-

nous aisles, is in the last stage



Antwerp has a rich and varied cultural heritage

of an extensive cleaning and restoration. Rubens is much in evidence but, then, this is his city. There is Rubens' house and Rubens' workshop, even a church designed by Rubens. Much of his work is in the Museum of Fine Art, a heavyweight 19th-century structure where the galleries are of a height to take the mammoth

canvases with space to spare. The walk back towards the cathedral is through cobbled squares lined with bars and restaurants. A real find is Neuze Neuze just off the market square where a fourcourse menu centred around fresh salmon in a garlic butter sauce is a little over £30.

And so back to Ostend. It is

BELGIUM FACT FILE

■ Holyman Sally Ferries has up to seven round trips daily, sailing between Ramsgate and Ostend. The crossing time is 100 minutes. Prices for a five-day ticket are from about £109 for car, two adults and up to three children.

Duty-free shops are opening this spring in Ramsgate and Ostend. For further information contact Holyman Sally Ferries on 0990 595522.

■ Belgian National Railways (information line: 0891 516444) has a five-day Railcard at £37.45 for five days' travel in a month. Go Pass is for those aged under 26 for ten single trips, costing £25.27.

■ The author stayed at the Hotel de Orangerie, Kartuizerinnerstraat 10. B-8000 Bruges (00 32 50 34 16 49). The hotel has 19 rooms, all with private bathroom, colour television, radio, direct-dial telephone and

Price per person for bed and breakfast in a de luxe double or twin room is £144 (BFr55 to the pound).

■ The Belgium Tourist Board, 29 Princes Street, London WIR 7RG (0171-629 3977),

disfigure every seaside town.

another town that is lively and

Perseverance reveals

with its own office, publishes details of short breaks available in Flanders in The Flanders Experience.

Recommended restaurants: Duc de Bourgoyne, 12 Huidenvettersplein, Bruges (about £40). Restaurant de Stove, Kleine St — Amandstraat 4 Bruges (from £20). Cour St Georges, Botermarkt 2, Ghent

(meals about £40). Neuze, Neuze, Wijngaardstraat 12-21, Antwerp (about £30). Viskeuken, Kte. Koepoortstraat 10, Antwerp (about £20 for four-course menu).

Museums: Groeninge Museum, Bruges (entrance £3.50). Museum of Fine Art, Antwerp (£2.70).

■ Reading: The Sorrow of Belgium, by Hugo Claus (Penguin, £7.99). An Inland Voyage, by Robert Louis Stevenson (in Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes & Selected Travel Writing) (OUP, E4.99). Flemish Cities Explored, by Derck Blyth (Pallas, £9.95). Cadogan Guide to Brussels. Bruges, Ghent and Antwerp, by Antony Mason (Cadogan, £19.99).

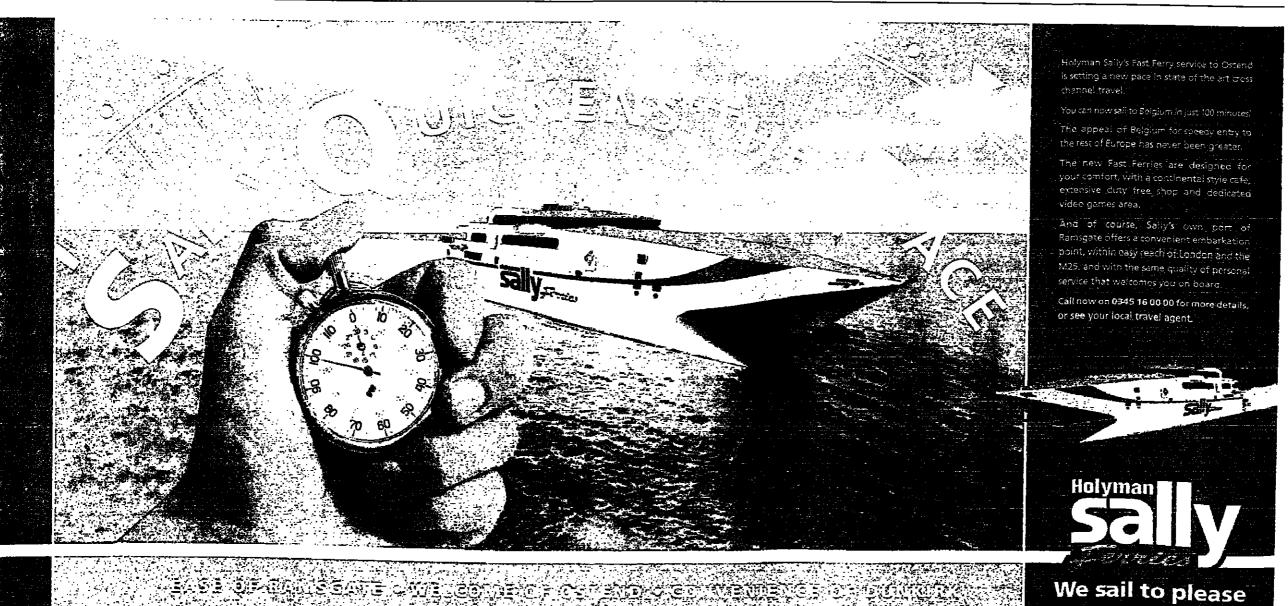
easy to bypass what might be appealing. To follow the broad just another ferry port. Seen promenade away from the docks is to discover the resort that Leopold II created in the from the harbour, Ostend shows the after-effects of being knocked about a bit in the war. early part of the century. Bomb damage has long since disappeared but in its place are the apartment blocks that

The first royal villa where Queen Victoria spent a holiday is still there (next to Tati's Jazz Bar, she would be surprised to know). The promenade, the racecourse and the broad ave-

nues into town are witness to Leopold's ambition to make Ostend the "Queen of the Belgian coast and fish restaurants with menus determined by the morning catch are almost beyond counting.

BARRY TURNER • The author was a guest of the Belgian Tourist Board.







Minnie happy returns to me

From Camilla Robinson, Tunbridge Wells, Kent

I AM no fan of Mickey and i had been dreading the inevitable visit to Disneyland Paris, especially since reading of Kevin McNeany's depressing experience. Since the first glitzy posters sent my children into raptures of excited anticipation, "When can we go?" was an oft repeated request. Then suddenly, one Tuesday, I relented — it was my

birthday. Within the space of 12 hours we had booked, packed and delivered ourselves to the gates of Davy Crockett's Ranch where we were greeted with the repetitive strains of Davy Crockett blaring from loudspeakers. My worst fears were being realised

My spirits lifted, however, on arrival at our "log cabin"set in a beautiful forest. It was spacious, well-equipped and spotlessly clean with both a television and a barbecue. We quickly unpacked and headed for the park.

I soon realised that fate had willed me to pick the best two days of the year to visit Disneyland Paris. As we drove through a vast tarmac desert of empty car parks on the approach to the main gates I could only shudder with horror at the thought of what it must be like when the car parks are full. On that particular day there was only a sprinkling of cars in the car park nearest to the main entrance. It was bitterly cold and we were heavily muffled. Then something remarkable happened.

AS WE approached the pink, sugar plum fairy facade of the Disneyland hotel, the grey clouds suddenly parted revealing a brilliantly blue sky and hot sun. Still booked on the idea of queues, we looked for one to join. There weren't. any. There followed a magical two days that left me stunned by the wonder of this fairytale myself I would hate.

lt was a dizzy rollercoaster ride of sheer fantasy through storybook worlds depicted in brilliant clarity. I flew with Peter Pan, danced with a ghost, climbed Swiss Family Robinson's tree house and rocketed into outer space. I spun in teacups at the Mad Hatter's tea party, got lost in a maze, touched a dragon and ate spicy ribs in a Wild West barn with foot-stamping, guitar-strumming cowboys.

Back home, life will never be quite the same. I'm living for my next fix of Disney magic. I think the children enjoyed it too.

 We welcome letters on any aspect of holiday travel. Send them to Letters, Travel Department, The Times. | Pennington Street, London E! 9XN or fax to 0171-782 5124.

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

New year 1998 begins in Kerala

SEVEN nights B&B for £405 in Kerala (14 nights for £455) is the starting price for Inspirations's (01293 822244) winter 1997-98 programme to India and Kenya. The price is based on accommodation in the Green Valley guest house at Kovalam between December 29 and January II, with even lower prices for

those prepared to risk unnamed accommodation.

A 14-night holiday which includes a new three-night rice barge cruise along the Backwaters costs from E565. All-inclusive holidays in Goa's Calangule start at £499 during April (although eating in Goa's beach "shacks", rather than in the hotels, is fun and cheap); new birdwatching holidays (Goa is home to 350 species) cost from £619 a week, all prices including flights.

Tunisian time

THE Oscar-nominated film The English Patient used stunning Egyptian" senery but was actually filmed in Tunisia. This should help to revive its fortunes as a holiday destination. Many locations, includ-ing the desert scenes, can be easily visited on expeditions or tours avail-able to those based at the beach resorts of Hammamet, Sousse or Monastir. Details from the Tunisian Tourist Office (0171-224 5561).

The old Bedu caravan post of Tozeur, the huge shimmering salt lake, the Chort el Jerid and nearby Saharan dunes served as the lovers' base camp in the film, while the sequences in Cairo's Medina were shot in Sfax, El Mahdia doubled as Tobruk, and Tunis as the Cairo of the 1930s. More strangely, Venice Lido's Hotel des Bains was the standin for Cairo's old Shepheard's Hotel, the wartime watering hole for ex-plorers, diplomats and spies, which was destroyed in the 1950s.

Water wary

THE WORLDWIDE boom in water sports has brought in its wake far too many cowboy operators, according to the latest issue of Holiday Which? It reports that only two out of 21 centres inspected in Crete and the Costa del Sol were safe, and five

were actually dangerous. Holidaymakers should check buoyancy aids and equipment, see if there are clearly marked operating lanes and, for some water sports, check the presence of trained lookouts accompanying the driver of the towing boat.

French nights

THE essential guide for all those driving through France who prefer friendly, family-run establishments for their overnight stops (to the admittedly economic efficiency of the

Formule One or Novotel chains) is the Logis de France Guide 1997, available from bookshops (£11.90) or from the French Government Tour-ist Office, Publications Department, 178 Piccadilly, London WIV 0AL (add El for postage and packing).

On average, rooms for two cost Fr222-Fr318 (about £24-£35), menus are Fr82-Fr196 (£9-£21), and a fixedrate three-course regional Menu du Terroir has been introduced at Fr100-Fr120 (£11-£13.50).

Vietnam beach

AS VIETNAM starts to become a popular holiday destination, beach resorts are beginning to pop up in specialist operators' brochures. Asian Journeys (01604 234855). whose director, Craig Burkinshaw, spent two years leading tour groups, features the Ana Mandara, the first resort-style accommodation to open in Nha Trang, South Vietnam, offering facilities and standards equivalent to the three-star bunga-low hotels of Thailand's Koh Samui or Phuket.

Other simpler hotels are also on offer, while Mr Burkinshaw tips the Vietnam-controlled island of Phu Quoc. off Cambodia. as a likely holiday discovery of the future.

Eleven nights B&B with eight nights in Ana Mandara and three nights in Saigon starts at £1,195, including flights.

City breaks

TWO-CENTRE city breaks in the United States and Italy can be arranged by Cresta Holidays (0990 561814); a two-night stay in New York with two nights in Chicago flying Heathrow/New York/Chicago/ Heathrow costs from £517 on a roomonly basis. New York can also be twinned with Boston or Washington.

Nearer home, the company offers two nights each in a choice of six Italian cities including Rome, Milan, Venice and Pisa. A two-night break



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in Rome, for example, and two in Milan, including all international and domestic connecting flights. costs from £413.

In training

SOME OF the world's most spectacular rail trips are offered by Great Rail Journeys (01904 679969), ranging from modest trips in the Alps to a 12-day Canadian Christmas and new year holiday. This includes Niagara Falls, the Rockies and Vancouver Island, linked by The Canadian, one of the world's great trains (from £1,390 including flights).

Nearer home, an escorted trip to Avignon, travelling by Eurostar and TGV. costs from £295 including three nights' accommodation. There is also a weekend break to the Rhine in Flames Festival in early May, with an evening river cruise for the firework festival and a day trip by steam train to the walled city of Ahrweiler. The price is £245 with rail travel from London.

Family fun

A NEW brochure, 100 Ideas for Families, is free from the Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629) 0461) with details of family-friendly holidays, sports, cave visits and festivals. The Vienna section has details of the House of Butterflies; Teddy Bear Museum, vintage tram rides and dressing up as part of a tour of Schönbrunn Palace and the Hofburg, Another free publication,

Montmartre: admission Fr15,

Fr8 (6-25s). Small children free. The Louvre: Fr40 hefore

3pm, Fr20 after 3pm & Sun.

Musée D'Orsay: admission

Fr36. Pompidou Centre: en-

try free but up to Fr35 for

cinema or special exhibitions.

EXCHANGE rate: £1 - Fr8.98.

READING: Europe by Train

1997, by Katie Wood; Cheap

Sleeps in Paris, by Sandra A.

Gustafson; Time Out Guide

JAMES PICKARD

to Paris.

families with children". Keen campers

of resorts which are "particularly

geared to the wishes and needs of

IT IS useful to have a car on holiday,

but it can be tedious getting it there. French Country Camping (01505 626266) lets the train take the strain of getting to some of its camping sites, and provides a self-drive car with unlimited mileage at the railway station. Campers can board Eurostar at Waterloo in London, change at Lille on to the TGV to the station nearest to the chosen site and pick up the hire car. From £745 for two adults and two children for seven days.

Cut-price cruise for starters

TRAVEL NEWS

■ P&O CRUISES (0171-8(x)) 2222) is tempting first-timers with a five-day sampler from £495 aboard its flagship Oriana. The cruise leaves Southampton on May 3, taking in La Coruna in nonhern Spain and the two French ports of La Pallice and Brest.

LE SHUTTLE and Stena Line followed P&O Ferries and Hoverspeed this week in extending advance booking offers. They will keep return fares below £100, compared with peak season prices of more than £330 last summer. P&O is offering any 1997 Dover-Calais return for £145 and Le Shuttle for £149 until April 30. Hoverspeed quotes £99 and Stena has cut 25 per cent from brochure prices for bookings by March 31.

■ PORTUGAL and Caribbean are showing the biggest percentage increases - up more than 30 per cent for summer holiday bookings, according to Thomas Cook. Spain and its islands occupy three of the top four slots, with the Greek Islands at number two. The only Top 10 country out of favour is Italy, down 4 per cent. Overall, summer sales are up 20 per cent.

■ THOMSON cut cruise prices this week by offering a two-week Caribbean holiday from £999 - and a one-week Red Sea cruises visiting Egypt. Jordan and Israel from £579.

■ THE STRENGTH of sterling against the French franc has made car rental firm Holiday Autos (0990 300400) cut prices by up to £140 for this summer. One week's hire now starts at £163 (down from E198) for the smallest car, a Peugeot 106 or similar. The biggest saving is £140 off a seven-seater Renault Espace or similar (£609 a week).

■ A 15-MINUTE thrice daily air service linking Gibraltar with three Moroccan cities begins today boasting that it is he shortest intercontinental flight in the world. Tour operators will offer inclusive day trips to Tangier, Fez and Tetuan on Rock Air from £49.

■ MORE than 100 London taxi drivers have become guides for Black Taxi Tours of London. A two-hour tour taking in all the sights, stopping at the most interesting and with a commentary from drivers who really know London costs £60. The price goes up to £65 from April but as each taxi takes up to five people that works out at £13 a head.

■ BRIT1SH Airways is clamping down on the amount of baggage carried on to an aircraft. Tough new rules will come into force at the end of this month in an attempt to prevent exits being blocked. bags falling from overhead lockers and the inconvenience to passengers trying to get to their seat behind others with mountains of hand luggage. Details from BA on 0345

See Paris for £100

Daris is a realistic weekend option for people with slim wallets. Le weekend, partly thanks to the Chunnel, can be enjoyed for little more than £100 and if you can endure seven hours in a nach, it costs even

HOW TO GET THERE: Here is a selection of spring offers, subject to availability. Campus Travel (0171-233 7892)

arranges packages from £70 with accommodation from £21 per night. A Eurostar deal will whisk you from Waterloo to Paris for £49 return midweek or £69 weekends (students and under-26s only). Timescape (0181-980 7244) of-

Thomson Travel (0171-200

Sarastem The Travel People (0181-906 0966) offers flights to Paris and one night B&B for (5560) from Fr110 a night.

The IYHF youth hostel at 8 Boulevard Jules Ferry (4357 I'Hotel de Ville, offers set menus at Fr65 or Fr80. one night's B&B costs £117.

fers Eurostar travel and two

fers coach trips throughout the year. For £79 you get two nights in a three-star hotel (B&B) plus transport. Eurodrive (0181-324 4000) combines Eurostar with two nights in a city centre hotel, from £99 to £120.

8703) charges £139 for one night's B&B plus Eurostar return, it also offers an E89 deal which ends in late March. £119. A Eurostar package with Council Travel (0171-287 3337) gives you two nights at a central hotel (B&B). plus

Eurostar return tickets, for £129 per head. For £39 the European Travel Centre (0171-373 8058) offers coach travel, two nights in a B&B hotel, and a guided tour. Treasures (0171-494 2292) of-

> nights at a central Hotel for Ell9, or E99 midweek. For £79 the Paris Travel Service (0171-233 7892) has two nights at a hotel plus coach transport. The faster alternative is Eurostar, with one night at a hotel for £99.

WHERE TO STAY: If you arrange your own trip, these are good tips for budget

The Auberge de Jeunesse d'Artagnan (436) 0875), 80 rue Vitruve, has 411 beds. Price Fr109 for dormitory accomm-

odation & breakfast. Cafe Couette (4294 9200) organises B&B with 80 different hosts for Fr280-520 per night for a double room: Mije (4272 7209) owns three converted mansions in the Marais. From FrHS a night with breakfast. Residence Bastille (4379 5386) charges Fr115 per person per night in dormitories.

WHERE TO EAT: Don't expeet haute cuisine below Fr220. But if you avoid tourist traps, drink house wine and stick to set menus, you can get a good meal at a reasonable price. Recommended budget eateries include: Bistro Mazarin, 42 rue Mazarine, average meal FrIIO.

OFFER

Les Temps des Cerises, 31 Rue de la Cerisaie, is an ancient bistro with a Fr50 lunch menu. Au Rendez-vous des Chauffeurs, 11 Rue des Portes-Blanchès has a Fr63 menu. Paris Travel Service (01992 456220) has extended its meal voucher scheme to include the Flo Tradition brasseries, at £32 per person for an aperitif,

starter, main course, dessert,

wine and coffee.

£499

THE SIGHTS: It's worth buying a Museum and Monument Card, which gives you free entry to 63 museums and monuments. Available at tourist offices, metro stations and large museums, Fr70 (one day), Fr140 (three days) or Fr200 (five days).
Eiffel Tower: by lift to 1st level
Fr20. children Fr10, 2nd level

Fr38/19, 3rd level Fr55/26, Free



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Oct 6, 13, 20, 27

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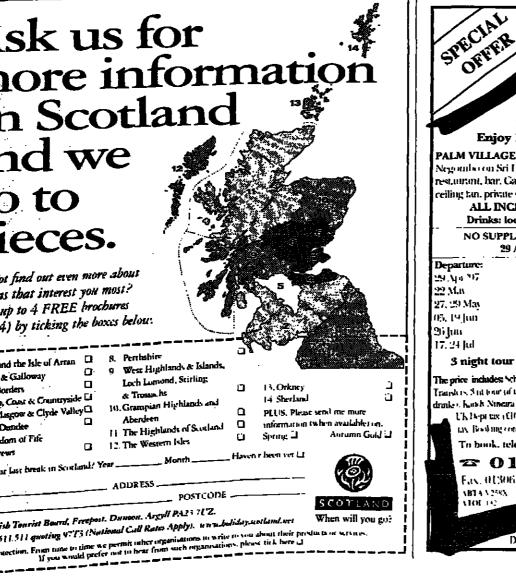
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Ireland: A bewitching break in the gently rolling hills and serene lakes steeped in history and legend.

Peace in the air of Clare

western Ireland know the drill: Shannon airport, medieval banquet (with wenches) at Bunratty Castle, see the Cliffs of Moher, play golf at Lahinch: so much for Clare done that. Then they go their separate ways, never to know what they have missed by seeking highways and ignor-ing byways of this entrancing

region.
Co Clare, locked in by the Shannon to east and south, faces westward to the sea, with Galway its northern neigh-bour. Two and a half hours by car from Dublin, in East Clare, a notice proclaims Mountshannon as winner of the 1981 Tidy Towns Competition. "A sort of evening-like town, very quiet, tree-lined with no big, gaudy signs or lettering", is how Edna O'Brien described her mother's

birthplace above Lough Derg. Lough Derg, a large bulge in the Shannon, is part of the river's navigation system; its harbour provides anchorage for holiday cruisers, and nearby are opportunities for game fishing (trout and salmon) and coarse fishing (pike, perch, rudd and bream). In the lake lies Holy Island, Inis Cealtra, where St Colum founded a monastery in the 6th century, but then "marauders mauled

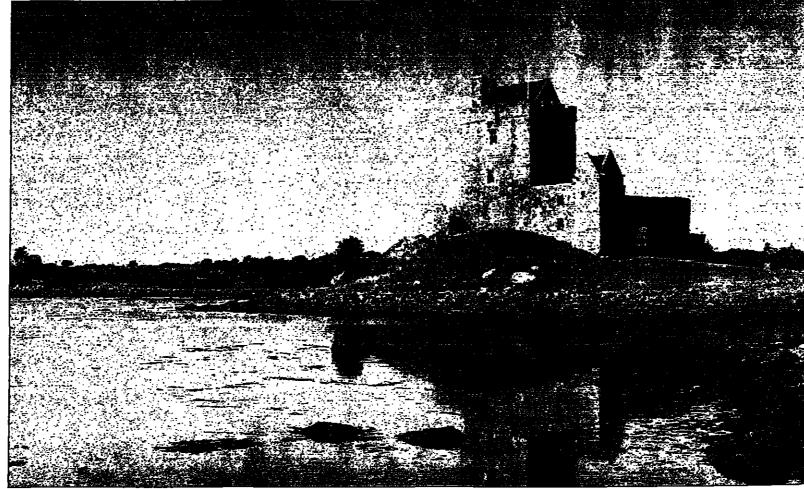
this from local historian Gerard Madden, who will take you there by motor-boat: a pleasant trip down the rush-fringed River Graney into Scariff Bay.

Gerry, or rumours of his whereabouts, can usually be unearthed at the East Clare Heritage Centre, in a 10th-century church in Tuamgraney, near Mountshannon. At Tuamgraney, you can see the Brian Boru Oak, oldest of species in Ireland.

Cottage industry has gathered fresh meaning in today's Ireland. Throughout the countryside, you find white and grey settlements of Irish holiday cottages, the usual pattern a cluster of traditional buildings on the edge of a village, marvellous way of getting to know rural Ireland.

Mountshannon Village Cot-tages are eight dwellings in pastel shades around a gravelled courtyard; ours had two storeys and slept six, in three bedrooms. An open hearth for peat fires, brass windowcatches, tiled floors, exposed woodwork and stable-door entrance gave a pleasantly antique feeling, though the kitchen is modern.

We enjoyed shopping, the village has an excellent butcher and a small supermarket;



Dongory Castle at Kinvara in County Clare has a timeless appeal, which somehow matches the tranquil splendour of this part of Ireland

we indulged ourselves in home cooking, unlike one American visitor, who inquired: "What time does the self-catering come round?" Bicycles can be hired, for gentle exploration of East Clare's meandering lanes.

est Clare is of different character. Its principal town, Ennis, is a fairly ordinary, busy place, with tight streets and a host of pubs, many offering traditional Irish music and beverages. There is a good 18-hole golf course, the 13th-century abbey has been restored, and the Old Ground Hotel is a comfort-

able, gracious establishment. These days, nostalgia colours our visits to Clare: every year for two decades, we stayed near the village of Corofin with dear friends, who showed us the subtleties of their re-gion. They had chosen an ideal site for their home, looking down on the serene waters of Inchiquin, and across to the stratifications of the Burren. Today's visitors enjoy the same view from Corolin Lake

Cottages.
I often think of the man I met early one morning in a country lane in Clare. I used to take a bicycle ride before my hosts had stirred and on this occasion I had a camera with me. As I rounded a corner, an ideal picture was before me: horse and cart outside a farm. the driver carefully ladling milk from churn into jug. As I focused the camera he turned and, spying me, whipped his horse furiously and sped off. Slowly it dawned that the poor fellow was stealing his morning milk and now, when most of Ireland still slept, he had been caught in the act.

Folklore and fact, legend and history, tend to become interwoven in Irish conscious-

ness, and Clare is a good place to witness that process. Many in West Clare have tales about Maire Rua, "Red Mary", a colourful figure of Cromwellian times.

OCEAN

10 miles

Go and see the restored Dysart O'Dea Castle, where Maire lived with her first husband, Daniel Neylon. Better still are the substantial remains, near Killinaboy, of Learnaneh Castle, once occupied by Maire and her second husband, Conor O'Brien.

Kilfenora, with its 12th-century high cross and Burren

roundings. After feasting there, we have taken the leisurely coastal route back to Corofin, through Kinvara and Ballyvaghan, with sightings of the Aran Islands westwards.

Why do we return to this region of Ireland, year after year? For memories for renewal of friendships, for tranquil-lity: the utter quiet of a Clare morning challenges descrip-tion. Nobody is astir early, and even birds seem muted at sunrise. The glassy waters of Lough Atedaun, hardly stirred by lazily gliding swans, convey a peace which very nearly passes all understanding; but then saints have breathed on this green and pleasant land.

I am of Ireland, and the Holy Land of Ireland

And time runs on Time does run on: it is 36 years since first I stood on Irish soil, yet, steeped in the atmosphere of this bewitching land, our hearts have not grown old. I can wish visitors to Ireland no richer gift than to be as blessed in good fellowship as we were: and may they catch sight of the sun now and then.

PETER ORR

TRAVEL TIPS

THE three-star Westlodge Hotel in Bantry. West Cork (00) 353 27 50300) has 15 per cent off weekend rates during the Bantry Mussel Fair. May 8-11. Alex Wijeratne writes. Double rooms are £90 per person shared. including two Irish breakfasts and a dinner. Bantry Bay mussels are free in all bars, restaurants and hotels throughout the event.

■ IRISH Ferries (0990) 171717) is reducing rates by half from March 19 between Pembroke-Rosslare, with one-way fares for a car and five passengers down from £99 to £49. Available until May 21. The same concession is reduced from £109 to £69 between May 26 and July.

STENA LINE (0990 707070) has day trips to "Ballykissangel" in Co Wicklow (in reality. Avoca) from £24 per person. Crossing via Holy-head to Dun Laoghaire, including coach to Avoca and shopping in Dublin.

■ BARGAIN stays at 1.700 farmhouses and guest houses are available through "Welcome Home Packages from Gerry Feeney Travel (0181-514 5141). The price for two people is 5298 until May 24, which includes six nights B&B plus ferry crossings with car from Holyhead to Dublin.

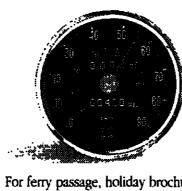
■ AER LINGUS (0645 737747) has two-for-one Companion Fares for £99 return from Stansted to Dublin until end of June. Passengers must travel together and stay either two nights or include a Saturday night in Ireland. Same fare from Heathrow to Dublin is El19 until May 22.

BUBLIN'S five-star Berkley Court Hotel (00 353 ló 687638) has 40 per cent discounts at £137 per person sharing for two nights, including breakfast and one dinner, until end of April.

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COUNTY CLARE FACT FILE

Stena Line's brochure, Holiday I reland, offers a wide choice of self-catering cottages: Ballyvaughan, Bellharbour, Corofin, Kilkee, Killaloe, Lahinch, Mountshannon, Quilty. season and location, from £300 to £859 for one week, £555 to return Stena Line crossing for car and two adults; additional adults E10 each, children under 16 free. Holiday Ireland (0990 747474) also has details of cruising holidays on the Shannon.

■ Getting there: Fishguard-Rosslare, Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire, Stranraer-Belfast by Stena Line conventional ferries and fast catamarans (0990 707070). Holyhead-Dublin, Pembroke-Rosslare by Irish Ferries (0990 171717). Cairnryan Larne by P&O European Ferries (0990 980980

Street, Ennis, which reopens on April I following renovations. Single from IRE59, double/twin from IRE108 (00 353 65 28112). Gregan's Castle, Ballyvaughan (00 353 65 77005), single rooms IRE78-E90, double/twin IRE96-E120.

■ Eating out: Moran's Oyster Bar, The Weir Kilcolgan (00 353 91 796113).

■ Reading: The Festival of Lughnasa by Maire MacNeill (Comhairle Bhealoideas Eireann, University College, Dublin): Ireland — A History by Robert Kee (Weidenfeld & Nicolson). Guidebooks and maps can be found easily in bookshops and Heritage Centres throughout Clare.

£1,498 for two weeks. Prices per cottage, not per person, including Similar packages from Irish Ferries (0990 170000).

■ Hotels: Dromoland Castle (for a taste of high living).

Newmarket-on-Fergus. Double (room only) IR£160-204, suites IR£330 (00 353 61 368144); Old Ground Hotel, O'Connel]

seasons impart variety and delight to Clare's landscape WEEKENDER PLUS-SPRING BREAKS and waterscape. Occasionally we stray north

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northwards from Leamaneh a

road leads past megalithic

tombs into the heart of the

Burren, 100 square miles of

limestone where, as Cromwell

noted: "There is not enough

wood to hang a man, not

water enough to drown him.

times for Clare: in spring,

myriads of tiny flowers sprout

in the cracks between the huge limestone pavings of the Burren; in autumn, shades of

red and gold illuminate the trees above Corofin Lake Cot-

tages. Early and late, the

of the border from Clare; just off the main road from Ennis

to Galway, you can visit Yeats's Thoor Ballylee and

Coole Park, with its woodland

walks. Past Kilcolgan, a sign

indicates Moran's Oyster Cot-

tage, which serves ovsters. crab, mussels and smoked

salmon in unpretentious sur-

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> BRITISH AIRWAYS HOLIDAYS Z

one of the oldest towns in Ireland. They were there to discover what wild Irish cheek had egged on this once derelict town in Co Cork to enter for the European Prize for Tourism and the Environment - competing against 269

t rained for much of the time when Europe's officials turned up to inspect Kinsale,

honey pots in 17 countries. Despite the soft mornings which drenched the visiting inspectorate - and to the surprise of everybody except the locals - Kinsale won. Beat places like Austria's Weissensee lake district, the Greek islands, the Cevennes national park in

France and the English Peak District Time was when Kinsale was a booming port and home to 10,000 souls. But famine, emigration and the closure of its British garrison out the population to 1,800 by the 1960s. The locals decided it was time to stop their town disappearing off the map. They tempted an international army of tourists to march on its stomach - to a town

that earned its royal charter in 1333

and let six centuries slide by without cooking a decent meal.

Opera singer Heidli MacNeice,
widow of Irish poet Louis, began the process by opening the Spinnaker - dedicated to treating the glorious local seafood with reverence. (It is not all that long ago that Ireland's fishermen threw prawns back into the sea, despising them as sea spiders". Mussels were con-

Peter Barry moved in next. Now

sidered "famine food".)

a sprightly sixty-something, he has some official title such as Chief of Tourism, but the locals call him King of Kinsale. He operates from a cottage bearing this notice: "This is the back door. The front door is at the back.' He opened the Man Friday restaurant in 1962 (it is still there) and told Mrs MacNeice: "I'll do meat. Anybody asks for fish - I'll send them to you." Mr Barry did

not know he was giving birth to a

concept which was to spawn the

Kinsale Good Food Circle, turn the

town into the gourmet capital of

Ireland and help it become top dog

International chefs sniffed the

kitchens of Kinsale and moved in.

Now their circle of restaurants are

committed to helping each other -

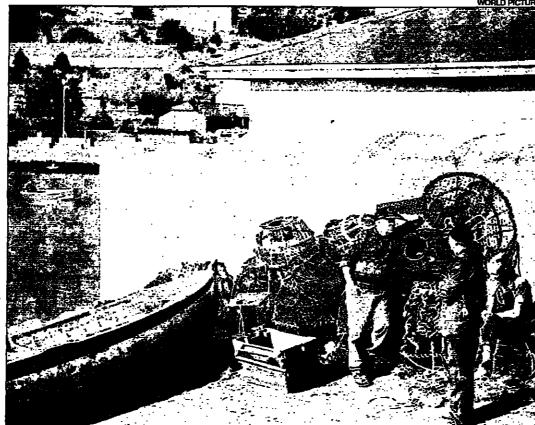
and the town. You want oyster

dinner. Five minutes from the National Wine Musuem. Aer Lingus (0645 737747) has Saver Fares from Heathrow to Cork for £79 return until June 30. Passengers must stay Saturday night . Ryanair (0541 569569) has flights from Stansted to Cork from £69 return until mid-July. British Airways (0345 222111) has

to Cork on March 20-24 from £133-£352.

guide you to a rival restaurant. Ask for salmon straight from the sea, hot-smoked while you wait, and he will guide you to one of his own tables. This dish, smoked over

ber: champagne brunches, wine tastings, music, dancing, Irish folk music, story telling. Bring your own Alka Seltzer. Kinsale is 13 miles from Cork airport through gentle farmland and meandering estuary coastline where one tiny development of new pastel-washed houses overlooking



or Kinsale, one of Ireland's oldest towns and also its gourmet capital; plus a literary pub tour in Dublin

rants, bars and hotels in and around Kinsale (pop. 2,500), many them magnificent. Bridgestone Book of Best Places to Stay says of the Old Prestbytery B&B: "As near as dammit perfect." One of the pubs is called the Greyhound. Hospitality there borders on the lethal, especially if you

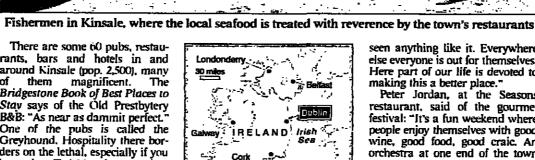
A Corking time was had by all

bump into Ted Murphy, part-time historian and full-time raconteur. You are about to empty your glass and go home when Mr Murphy says: "Do you know the most romantic history that's never been continues with the Irish fleeing English persecution in the 17th century, settling in vineyards from France to Chile and still dominat-

Peter Barry and Brian Cronin are

among the driving forces behind

Kinsale's International Museum of



seen anything like it. Everywhere

else everyone is out for themselves. Here part of our life is devoted to making this a better place." Peter Jordan, at the Seasons restaurant, said of the gourmet festival: "It's a fun weekend where people enjoy themselves with good wine, good food, good craic. An

orchestra at one end of the town and a jazz festival at the other." Walk along Main Street (the narrowest one in town) and aim for Denis Quay. The 1890 houses on your right once stood smack on the waterfront overlooking the hundreds of lishing boats which then brought mackerel and herring to the port. But things have not changed all that much. In October 1703, a Captain Francis Rogers of

found "very good French claret in the taverns and we did not a little

A Dublin is easy. You take the tube to Heathrow, or any other main UK airport, hop on the Aer Lingus flight, and an hour and a half later you are in Dublin, with a pint of Liffey Water at your elbow — a relaxing start to a weekend in a

ه كذا من الاعليم

back they are practically There is always something new going on in Dublin and the old haunts don't change much so after a couple of visits - and this

the student quarter, full of bars and boutiques and thronged with youngsters. We had a look at that and very

O'Casey and a Black Bush, and a bit of Behan, but I forget what I

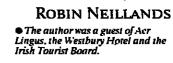
extremely good dinner in the Russell Restaurant. The Saturday morning tradi-

tion is breakfast at Bewley's in Grafton Street, one of the great old-fashioned tea shops of Dublin, where the waitresses wear lace caps and the portions are enormous. The rest of the day was spent wandering about in the revamped and glitzy Brown

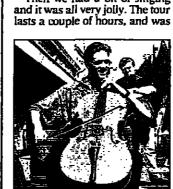
Thomas department store. Wandering is the best way to take in the sights. Some things ought to be seen, or seen again. like the 9th century Book of Kells in the University Library, or St Stephen's Green and the Georgian houses for which Dublin is justly famous. We had lunch in the bar at the Shelbourne Hotel and spent the afternoon strolling up Grafton and O'Connell Street, skipping out of the rain for a look at the Dublin Writers

Museum and the splendid art in the National Gallery of Ireland. That took up all the time until dark and so to dinner at The Side Door, Dublin's newest restaurant. It is the perfect place for dinner, after a snifter or two in the Horsehoe Bar next door -Brendan Behan was carried

home from there many a time. After dinner walk into any pub, like O'Donoghue's or Molly Malone's Tavern and in seconds you will be deep in conversation with someone. The music is infectious, the din considerable and neither of you know what you are talking about, but that hardly matters because you're



having such a good time.



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Further information from the

Irish Tourist Board (Bord Failte), 150 New Bond Street, London

■ The Literary Pub Tour (E6) begins nightly from The Duke Pub.

WIV OAQ (0171-518 0800).

special weekend rate.

DUBLIN FACT FILE

from £69. Aer Lingus Holidays (0181-569 4001) offers weekend breaks to many parts of Ireland. ■ The Westbury Hotel, Grafton St, Dublin (00 353 16 791122) has

sausages? Thai delicacies? Black pudding poached in pink champagne? Brian Cronin at the Blue

A.J.

4

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oak chippings with a saffron and dream meals of the world".

shrimp sauce, was chosen by Elle magazine as one of the top ten The town packs in serious gourmandisers for a foodie spectacular in Octo-

told?" Suddenly it is not time to go home and he is romancing the story of how the Irish conquered the world of wine. It starts 1,400 years ago with St Patrick knowing a good drop when he came across one and

indulge ourselves". Kinsale has House, said: We want visitors feel JACK CROSSLEY they have been in a happy town, where people work together. I have Next week: Northern Ireland cooked around the world and never

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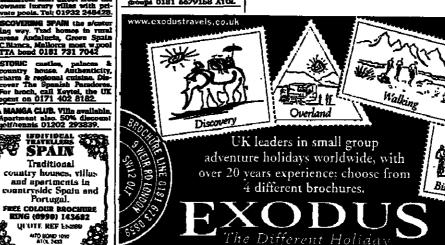
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Squiffy on the Liffey rranging a weekend in Dublin is easy. You take

city where the people are so laid-

was my eighth - it starts to feel like home. We began at the Westbury Hotel, in the old heart of the city, and checked up on the latest attractions with Brendan Enright, hotel concierge and Dublin enthusiast. He recommended a stroll to the Temple Bar area,

entertaining it was and stopped by the bronze statue of Sweet Molly Malone and her herring barrow - referred to locally as The Tart with the Cart - and got an early start on the shopping. By then it was time for the early evening Literary Pub Tour, a kind of pub-crawl with culture led by resting actors. The tour consists of dropping into marvel-lous pubs in little-known corners of the city for a pint of the right stuff and a snatch of verse or a scene from a play. We had Guinness and Wilde, Sean

had with that. Then we had a bit of singing

Duke St. at 7.30pm.

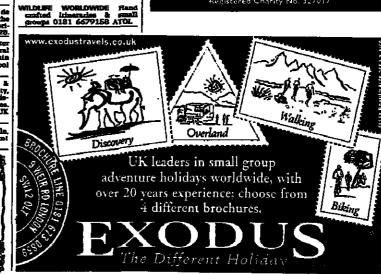
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the harbour scars the western hillside like a razor slash. One local confessed: "They look like a set of

false teeth. They are so awful that I

bought one. When I'm in there

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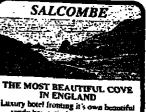
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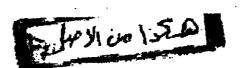
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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

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 $\cdot \mathbb{S}_{n} = \mathbb{S}_{n}$

ridie

cxd5 exd5 5 Nf3 Nc6. Later, in n the Capablanca-Alekhine World Championship of 1927, the Orthodox Defence to the Oueen's Gambit - 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3

Nc3 Nf6 - was tested almost to extinction. The verdict was, and tends to remain, that Black's prospects are solid, but not exciting. Then in the 1930s, the Slav Defence, based on 2 . . . co. gained in popularity, especially as a result of games beween the world champions Alekhine and Euwe. Dr Tarrasch had earlier dis-

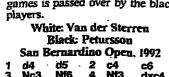
a great debate raged as to the

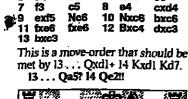
Tarrasch lobbied fiercely for the defence which bears his name,

namely 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 c5 4

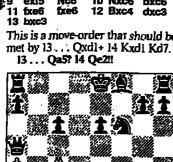
missed the Slav, since the pawn on c6 deprives Black's queen's knight of its best square. Nevertheless, the Slav, as a new book by former British champion Matthew Sadler demonstrates, continues to show great vitality. In the following two games from the book we see Black losing, but mainly because the chance to exchange queens, respec-

tively on moves 13 and 12 in the two games is passed over by the black





2 c4 4 Nf3 6 Ne5 dxc4 a4 13 **B**15



By Raymond Keene from the game Hjartarson -

though White is nominally ahead

Staunton Society, which includes

a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-the- 1

Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

IN THE early part of this century, correct defence against the Queen's Gambit. The German grand-master and teacher Dr Siegbert.

This rook sacrifice is a magnificent concepti

16 Oxe6+ Kd8

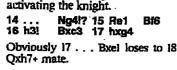
21 Bd3 with a crushing attack. 17 Ke2!! This quiet move, allowing the rook to join in the attack,

Cxa4 18 Rd1+Cxd1+ Bc5 20 Qf7 Re8 Nd7 22 Bf7 Rf8 Nf6 24 Qb7 Re8 Kc7 26 Bf4+ 19 Kxd1 21 Qxg7 23 Be6 25 Qxa8+

Be7 10 0-0-0 dxe3 12 fxe3 0-0 This move, the key to White's play was introduced by Garry Kasparov in his game against Nikolic in the

Bd3 Nbd7 15 Bf5 and White went on to win. 12... Na6 Also possible is 12...

eliminating White's attacking possibilities. badly, Black must consider 13...





published by the Chess Press, is

Last week's solution: 1 ... Rh1+

29 Berwick Street, London WIV 3RF (tel: 0171 287 6555)

on material (rook for knight), the

16 . . . Be7 loses to 17 Qxc6+ Kf8 IS Qxa8 Ne8 19 Ke2 Qxa4 20 Qd5 Nd6

Black resigns. White: Rogozenko: Black: Bets Moldovan Championship, 1994

Rd8, preventing 13 Bc3 since, in that case, 13 . . . Qxdl+ 14 Qxdl Rxdl+ 15 Kxdl exchanges queens,

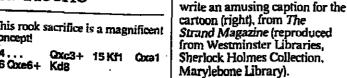
Qeo, keeping the queen close to the kingside to help with defence, while threatening ... Nb4 and ... Ng4 as well as ... Qxe3+.
14 a3! Preventing 14 . . . Nb4.

h6 18 Oxc3 Oxg3 hxg5 20 Bd3 Rd8 f6 22 Reh1 Oc7 Kf8 24 c5! Bg4 21 Rh7

available from Cadogan Books, 27-

Black to play. This position is

activity of Black's pieces renders this irrelevant. How did Black Send your answer on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the



READERS are invited to

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43, Weekend, The Times,

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London El 9XN.

a postcard with your name and

justifies White's brilliant idea.

d5 2 c4 c6 e5 4 dxe5 d4 Qa5+ 6 Bd2 Qxe5 Nf6 8 Nf3 Qd6 Be7 10 0-0-0 0-0

1992 Manila Olympiad. That game continued 12 ... Qc7 13 Bc3 Bg4 14

13 Bc3 Qc7 Since this turns out

WINNING MOVE



No 1042

ACROSS: I Bowl 3 Grappie 8 Compost 9 Datum 10 Milan 11 Entreat 13 Dark borse 17 Cynical 19 Gamma 20 After 22 Hominid 23 Rigging 24 Pyre

DOWN: I Become 2 Wimbledon 3.Go the whole hog 4 Audit

5 Pet 6 Enmity 7 Joiner 12 Even money 14 Régime 15 Eclair 16 Handle 18 Corgi 21 Tug

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ACROSS

13 Ploy (6)

l Little lab vessel (4,4) Discover (4)

8 Party decorations; swells

up (8)
9 Fight: naut. pole (4)
11 Usurping mil. clique (5)
12 Royal household officer (7)

15 Inelegant helping (of food)

18 Word of identical meaning (7)

22 Ingenious contrivance (8)

24 Large celebration (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 1041

23 Friendly; close to answer (4)

More than adequate (5)

21 Ceremony (4)

DOWN

1 Man-with-hat-shaped mug

2 Beauty parlour, art exhibi-

3 Rich/poor gulf (Disraeli)

(3.7)
4 Golf hazard: underground

7 Eliz Bennet's match \mathcal{G} .

14 Enormous; deformed thing (7)

17 Mafia code of secrecy (6)

18 Dry stalks: their colour (5) 20 Before; senior monk (5)

Austen) (5)
10 Dangerously exposed

tion room (5)

shelter (6)

6 Put at risk (7)

(3,2,1,4)

16 Go ahead of (7)

PUNCHLINE



"But I assure you this is the dress the Spice Girl wore"

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

BELTANE

c. May Day

a. A sword-belt

b. The waning moon



also be viewed. Pinpoint compass control means wherever you move the mouse on the map a display box shows the position.

by Tim Wapshott

.Guide, but none is more complete than Personal

plary route planner, the title has several other tricks up its sleeve including a Royal Mail postcode database for pinpoint accuracy and plug-in GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver abilities to give you, your laptop and car precise tracking down here on

covering 140,000 miles of

ups. Up to 30 stopovers can be incorporated in journey planning along with other preferences, such as road types and travel speeds. Time and cost estimates are quickly calculated. You can also build up your own custom database of locations and places of interest with

earth by at least eight orbiting with more than 4,000 hotel and restaurant selections. This version also accommodates the satellite navigation wizardry, for which you need a plug-in GPS receiver. With this compact device, the maps become interactive and your progress around the country is plotted by a constantly updated dot on the screen. The only drawback is that it doesn't come cheap. The basic title costs £99, while Personal Navigator Professional is £149. GPS receivers start at £199, Add-on street-level mapping encompassing

tents, including maps, can be printed. Ordnance Survey maps

Old roll of parchment breaks when stored aboard ship (4) Touchy about famous bowman (4) Discouraged poet, cut by university, died (7)

Separate from star, needing a drink (6) guidance (5) it was (6)

After lunch in Australia take in eggs which are over

DAH. END.

NAME.

ADDRESS..

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runners-up will each

receive a book token worth £10

Was disturbed about cross old soldier (4)
Nothing against male in local shoot with skirt according to Old Bill (6) Hazard to reject in Sydney (4)

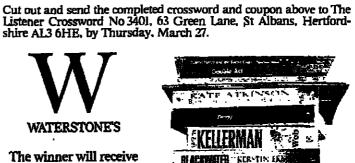
Share rise at last is pleasing (4)

(distinctively), PERPENDICULAR STYLE (laid out vertically), DISPROPORTIONATELY (in an overlong manner) and PARALLELOGRAMMICAL (with opposite sides aligned). Three-letter words were defined in the order GIG, RAP, TEC, TEL, HAS, OLD.

16 20 21 22 31 38 40

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3401

in association with Waterstone's



UNDER MY SKIN

Whisperer evens

Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in virtually every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 44859b. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 0181-742 3800.

It is not easy to reach the excellent can ruff out the suit, but West turns grand slam, though several pairs up with five. Next you try ace king and a third managed it with that potent mixture, science, Blackwood and exuspade, ruffing in dummy. Without berance. The best line involves looking too deeply into the hand your general idea is that if the taking your chances in the right order, a technique sometimes queen of spades doesn't drop you will take the club finesse. However

cross to the queen of diamonds drawing East's remaining trump, and play the top hearts throwing

away clubs. If hearts are 43 you

after the spade ruff, you ruff a heart North-South game back to hand, leaving this position: ₹3 #AQ

+107

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

+AKJ85

MANY countries promote Junior Bridge. The hand I describe today

occurred at an international junior

training camp in Miami last year.

called "echeloning" the play.

⊕84

⊕AQ

♥KQ643

N

S

· E

+0975

♣KJ64

₩ 105 **• 1092**

• 0743

Dealer North

⊕832

▼J9B72

±10753

ه كذا من الإعلام

Contract: Seven Diamonds by South Lead: six of diamonds A club lead would reduce your chances and a spade makes the hand trivial, but imagine that you receive the juniors' favourite lead, a trump. You play low from dummy, and when East follows you can count twelve sure tricks - five trumps in hand, three top hearts, two spades and a ruff, and the ace

able to get a second spade ruff, so you play a second high trump from When West throws a club you play for your second chance, a 4-3 heart split cash the ace of hearts.

of clubs. If trumps are 2-2 you will

You lead your last trump. West throws a club, you throw dummy's heart and East throws the jack of clubs. Being idle, you haven't taken much notice of the discards except to observe that West kept his winning heart and the queen of spades hasn't appeared. When you play a club at trick twelve and West follows low, you

. · · S

+5

there is no point in finessing. So you put up the ace of clubs. The king falls - it turns out that East has been squeezed in the black This year's camp will be in Italy,

after the world Junior Pairs. Provi-

know his last card is a heart so

sional dates are July 11-22.

As well as being an exem-

vey's Travelmaster maps, roads, then adds umpteen layers with postcodes (1.6 million), a definitive gazetteer (220,000 places) taken from

satellites simultaneously.

The basic Personal Naviga-

tor title takes Ordnance Sur-

user definable entries cross-referenced to map markers. Personal Navigator Professional adds three Egon Ronay

guides to the database options,

the Ordnance Survey Landranger maps, topographical information plus places to fill up on food, culture and fuel. The Good Pub Guide locates everywhere within the M25 will 1,300 recommendations and The Good Weekend Guide picks out also be available soon, for £179. This week's Top Tip, winning a 5,000 places to visit. All maps, with

Jazzy velour window curtain (6)

Person to yell regularly for hypothetical substance

The four pieces of the grid can be assembled around a 7x7 square to form a skew, jagged-edge "square". The four long entries were hinted at in the preamble viz. CHARACTERISTICALLY

The five runners-up are: G. Meridith and Manchester: F. Blanchard of Bournemouth, Dorset: R. Boot of Ealing, London; and

THE Manchester Ship Canal is 36 tive Atlas of Great Britain is miles long, the chalk figure at Uffington is of a horse. Conwy Castle was built by Edward I. one of the latest additions to the Attica Knowledge series. The part-reference, mostly-Loughborough is famed for the

Ordnance Survey Interactive Atof either one inch to ten miles las of Great Britain. The multipleor one inch to four miles. answer quiz turns up a hotchpotch of questions for each of the ten regions in the country. Players must correctly answer three questions in one region to move on to the next until the entire country has been covered. And it's set against the clock — to succeed you'll need to come up with 30 correct answers within five minutes.

latitude and longitude of that The Windows CD-Rom also

encoded. The code is on the outside of a wheel driven by a keyboard. The wheel moves forward one position when 'A' is struck, two when 'B' is struck and so on. When the wheel stops turning, the letter to be entered appears in a window. At the start of the puzzle. 'E' is in the window. When the encoding of 1-ac is completed, the letter then in the window is the starting position for the encoding of 6-ac

HALF the across answers (1 to 17 and 25 to 34) are

manufacture of bells and at least 30

per cent of the world's ships were

built in the North East during the

If you know all this then you'll

excel in the quiz section of The

barely audible when a few bells,

whistles or jingles would have

injected some much-needed pace

into the challenge. Finding all 30

answers rewards users with a

ACROSS Diet a bit of madness for a small man, especially a soldier (6) Sleep is one asset to be nursed (b) Before start of television somewhat thin in live 11

Lord who has to go to Oval possibly for game (4) Old hedge not half all right for bird (4)

Covered with water grass enclosure gets extremely

should be written beneath the grid.

coverage (7)

Composer to avoid (5)

defensive set-up (7)

Stuffed note in middle of song (5)

Jack harms timber carriers (5)

Try to duck lacking courage (5)

Solution to No 3398: All Square by Dimitry

The winner is: A. King of Witney. A. Reid of Wood Green, London; N. Maxwell of

also form the basis of the exemplary Personal Navigator titles for Windows 95 from Softwair Limit-

No 3401: Enigma Variation by Swan

Hold-up is welcome to detective (6) Vibrating in capacity of defunct queen bee (7)

yarn? (6) Attempt of Kiwi to get round one with a quaint vault Daughter under roof of heartless relative is without

R. Baxter of London.

Prayer cows Scottish king with independent constit-

⊕ A K J 10 By Philip Howard **HEGIRA** a. A flight. b. An upper storey c. A prostitute PHALANX a. A spotted wild cat b. A pottery jar c. A scrum CAMILLA a. A fragrant herb b. A sprinter c. A type of lace

WORD WATCHING

Answers on page 21



Personal Navigator is excellent for anyone who spends time on the road

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

Rails against English being thin on the ground (b) Once used to sanction opponents to hit the sack (6)

Short biblical book your interpretation of a fine You could be sick of this Ecstasy metaphor, local as

ed, perfect for anyone who spends a lot of time on the road.

Planned not to have money distributed (6) Bird not totally bad engaged in competition (7)
Clobber dumped on step is upholstery material (5)
Production unit in unproductive north (5)

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a b c d e f g h

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a c l information in maps, graphs

a d pianters and botel guides around, titulate and physical content of the road.

There are several CD-Rom route- planners and hotel guides around, tions, can be printed. Routes can be customised and quickly amended on the grass — and free up more of to avoid road-closures and holdyour hard drive."

With loved one the old duke formerly exulted (5)

J |

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by A.Gray of Kingston, Surrey

Roughly 200 landmarks and landscapes are illustrated in colour slides which can be expanded to full-screen size. A clutch of quick video reports, which seem to have been selected at random, can The questions comprehensively cover all British bases but the only sound-effects are disappointing -

features seven interactive lessons to improve map-reading skills and additional databases offering political, population, climate and physi-

It is possible for a letter to be encoded but remain unchanged. The unchecked encoded letters could be arranged to create the unlikely character 'DR X MFH'. The order of the letters on the wheel, starting with E.

Masseur makes joint start to rotate within a day (7) Wrinkly flower absorbs lecturer (5) Rector seen breaking top American's wrist (6) Aphrodisiae I nibble has pips in it (5) A wife goes to a disreputable house to stir (6) A.Border, for example, to settle back behind Vicariously writes play (6)

Onze round edge of tablecloth could be butter (5)

Sound out tailor to make long robe (5) Wanting to run away though genuine (5) I'm a clot and a half-baked ox! (o)

E E K N S A

Survey 11.1. Surve

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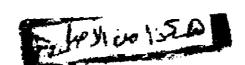
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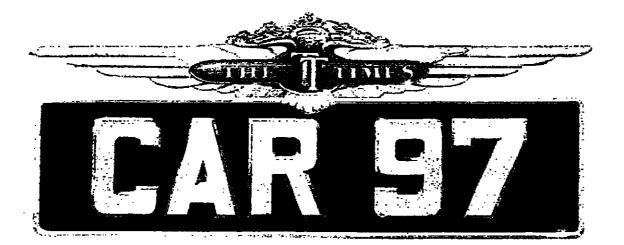
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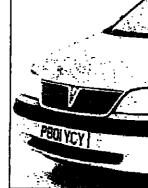


Get fit while the garage fixes your car Page 2



Vauxhall launches contender for the space race

Page 3



SATURDAY MARCH 15 1997

Computer-controlled robots mean goodbye to the disgusting multistorey. Jonathan Prynn reports

The building will park your car

magine never again having to tackle the assault course that is parking your car in a multistorey: no more manic hunts for that last space on the fourth floor, never again the fumble for change you know you do not have, the scrapping of graffiti-scarred lifts that work only as public lavatories.

And no "Mr Jobsworth", shouting: "You can't park there" seconds after you have completed one of the world's most difficult manoeuvres - putting a 12ft car mto a 12ft 2in slot.

Instead, computerised, hightech bliss, the parking carefully taken care of by robots so there is not even the hint of an accidental ding or lost indicator light when you miscalculate the distance between the bumper and the wall. And it's coming to a city centre near you soon.

Work on Britain's first fullyautomated computer operated car park is due to start in Edinburgh in October with an pening date next summer. Many more are expected to

If the idea takes off, the traditional multistorey, with its dank, foul-smelling recesses and exhaust-filled atmosphere may soon be consigned to the same dustbin of history as the high-rise tower block.

At the Edinburgh car park, part of a £40 million conference centre motorists will simply drive into an enclosed bay, lock their cars and walk away with their tickets. The computer and "robot" trolleys will do the rest.

Behind the scenes, as the doors to the bay close, the electronically closed trolleys obediently go about their business. Under command from the central computer. they pick up the car, carry it to the lift, then leave it in the nearest available "space" in a rack.

hen the driver re-turns and feeds the ticket back into the computer, the robots are programmed to pick up the car again, take it to the lift and return it to the pick-up bay. Some 45 seconds or so after the car arrives at the car park, the bay outer doors will open, hopefully to reveal the vehicle ready to be driven off.

That, at least, is the theory. Manufacturers claim that their system is safer, greener, more secure than the traditional multistorey and takes up around 30 per cent less room.

Computer sensors detect any intruders entering the car park, which is patrolled by closed circuit television, and automati-cally locks all external doors. The computer will also refuse to park any cars from which they can detect movement, making it very difficult to "stow away" inside a vehicle being parked. The pick-up point is a well-lit and comfortable waiting room, in contrast to the gloomy and frightening ambience of underground car parks beloved of cop show and thriller film directors.

According to Brian Dunlop. managing director of Sky Parks, the company building the Edinburgh car park, vehicles will be returned to their driver within 30 to 45 seconds of entering the ticket into the slot. At peak time it can process up to 100 cars an hour, making the maximum wait no more than three minutes, he

Although they are about 20 per



Massed wheels at the 1948 Royal County Show, Salisbury: half a century later, high technology could handle all these, even making them vanish underground







The Trevi: after the subterranean honeycomb, left, is completed, only a ticket machine and a platform that sinks into the ground to deposit the car, right, are visible

claim that they work out cheaper in the long run because of lower staff costs. Many of those built abroad are completely unmanned, although continuously monitored from a central CCTV centre covering a number of car

Two main competing systems are now on the market. The above ground version is little more than a gigantic Meccano cent more expensive to build, frame with slots for the cars to be advocates of automated car parks, stored in. Because there is no to the surface on receipt of a

need for ventilation or light, the frame can be clad in materials blending in with the surrounding buildings. According to Dunlop. car parks of the future could be made to look like Georgian mansions or Norman castles if

The main alternative is a below ground system pioneered by the Fiat subsidiary, Trevi. This parks cars in a cylindrical subterranean "honeycomb" and returns them

ticket. The company says it is attractive to organisations needing a high level of security, such west End hotels. London counwest End hotels, London counas the Ministry of Defence or useful lives. cils and Government ministries about building car parks in the

centre of the capital. The great advantage of the Trevi system is that it leaves almost no visual trace of its presence above ground - just a nicket machine and a platform that sinks into the ground to deposit the car. They are also secure, making them particularly

Downing Street. Typically, while hundreds of spanking new automated car parks are already installed in France, Germany, Italy and elsewhere in Europe, Britain has been slow to catch on to the technology. Three were built in this country in the 1960s, two in central London and one in Leeds, but used cumbersome, pre-com-

If the idea does take off and the British public can be persuaded to entrust their beloved cars to computers and robots, the multistoreys that blight so many towns and cities will soon be tumbling down with the regularity of council tower blocks. Only the film industry, with its love of rooftop chases and car park shootouts, will mourn.

ROADS IN DECAY

Drivers need to be told the hole truth

BRITAIN's motorists need a fulltime, paid-up, scientific and totally objective pothole and road sign counter, writes Vaughan Freeman.

Richard Diment of the British Road Federation, says there is a need for a standalone body able to assess and report on the state of the nation's roads. His call comes in the wake of this week's report that personal injury and damage compensation claims arising out of accidents caused by potholes are climbing at the rate of 30 per cent a year.

The Refined Bitumen Association says there are more than 200 insurance claims filed every week as a result of pothole damage, at a possible annual cost to insurers of more than £3.6 million.

Diment says: "We need something akin to the Prisons or Schools Inspectorate, except for roads, an independent body, adequately funded, charged with going out there and reporting back on particular aspects of the nation's road system. such as the conditions of signs, road surfaces, and so on."

The BRF claims that the Government's own National Road Maintenance Condition Survey, while reporting a deteriora-



recent years, does not accurately reflect the condition of the network because there are no agreed national standards, and because it is a visual survey relying on 'snapshots" of selected sections.

In 1994 road surface defects were directly linked to accidents involving 1,344 injuries; nearly 6,000 injuries were linked to accidents at roadworks and 600 related to defective or obscured road signs.

THE LEVEL of funding on road maintenance certainly appears to be in decline. Structural and current maintenance expenditure fell from £380 million in 1996 to an expected £147 million this year, while in 1994/95 some 840 nearside lane kilometres of trunk road and motorway were renewed compared to I30 nearside lane kilometres planned for renewal during 1996/97.

According to the Freight Transport Association: "The 1995 National Road Maintenance Condition Survey confirms that 3.9 per cent of trunk motorways and 7.3 per cent of all-purpose trunk roads more than 1,000 kilometres - have reached the point where major strengthening or reconstruction work is necessary. On the non-trunk principal road network, for which local highway authorities are responsible, 25 per cent, or more than 8,000 kilometres of road, will need major structural repair within four

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There is little point defending people who saw graphic reports of the carnage on the M42 and brought about a repeat of that carnage next morning

Let there be light in the foggy gloom

policeman out of a Hollywood movie. a only for real. The blue lights of his highway patrol vehicle flashed behind me in the suburbs of Washington DC and I pulled over. We had a lengthy conversation about what he was entitled to do with me, which included jailing me overnight, but parted amicably

after a stern warning.

Tailgating, or driving too close to the vehicle in front, is a specific offence in the United States and the law is enforced with vigour. In Britain, the offence is not specific but it is an offence, though I suspect it is not policed to anything like the extent that speeding is.

There is little point trying to defend the people who on Monday night saw graphic television reports of the carnage on the M42

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



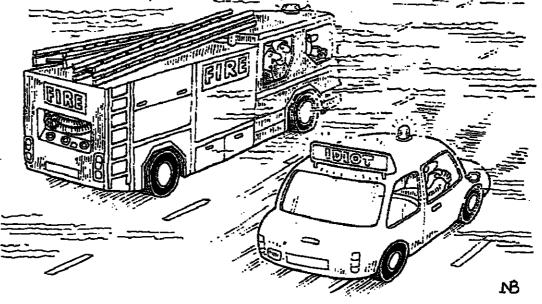
Peter Barnard

and proceeded to bring about a repeat of that carnage on Tuesday morning. The emergency services said that drivers were moving too fast for the foggy conditions and that they were driving too close to each other.

drivers in fog is quite beyond belief. We can imagine the scene: people travelling too fast and too close together see an accident in the opposite carriageway and slow down to rubberneck. A combina-tion of the slowing down and the proximity of following cars leads to a multiple pile-up.

I do not advocate fast driving in fog, but if people were far enough apart their speed would not be so fatally relevant. I have spoken against some of our speed limits in the past, but there is no argument against temporary limits imposed in fog and people who exceed them by, say, more than 10mph ought to suffer stiff automatic penalties.

But I do believe that something else could be done. The provision of rear fog lights on cars has been standard for many decades and can be a lifesaver in fog. But I also



think they have the capacity to cause accidents. There is implicit official recognition of this danger, because it is illegal to have fog

ghts on unless necessary. The reason is that fog lights can be blinding. But they are not just blinding in themselves. When the car in front has its fog lights on, the overall impression of the lighting

on the back of that car is about the same as one gets when its brake lights come on. So, when the brakes are applied with the fog lights on, the increase in light emitted from the car is less than

would otherwise be the case. Resultantly, I believe that drivers react to brake lights a fraction of a second later when fog lights

are on than when they are not. The consequences of such a delay, multiplied through 100 cars travelling at speed, could be catastrop-hic. I have nothing but anecdotal experience to back this claim, but other drivers I have spoken to this week have the same impression.

So what could be done? I think the best answer would be for fog lights to be of a different colour, such as orange. They would stand out as much as they do now, but would break the pattern of red rear lights, red fog lights and red brake lights that make up the present arrangement.

None of which cures bad drive ing. We could have a system whereby parachute flares were launched and klaxons sounded every time someone brushed against the brake pedal, but that would never compensate for idiots travelling too fast and too close together. The driver of a fire engine heading for the main acci-dent on the M42 found himself being overtaken by people travelling at 70mph in visibility below 50

Stupidity of that order is beyond the remit of common sense reasoning, but it is not outside the law.
With the backing of the transport department, police forces could announce that patrols will in future take the details of such cars (stopping them in thick fog would too hazardous) and prosecute for dangerous driving, an offence which gives magistrates' courts the option of very severe penalties.

Some may think that draconian. I can only direct them to the funerals of those who died this week.

Smoking can be bad for your driving



Uneasy rider: driver distraction in La Dolce Vita

Simon Hacker on why tobacco and Tarmac is a dangerous combination

moking can kill — at least it can when you are at the wheel of your car. For smoking is high on the list of distractions that can vitally have motorists worrying more about their next "fix" of nicotine than what is going on around their cars.

The idea that the attention of drivers wanders is not new; motorists find a suprising number of things to do at the wheel. One in five quizzed for the Lex Report on Motoring admitted to reading a map, a conservative 13 per cent used their mobile telephone - and 3 per cent confessed to kissing and cuddling. Yet more admitted they have shaved, put on make-up, or done their hair

while driving. In the week of No Smoking Day though, one story headlines smoking. A 21-year-old Swindon woman passenger died läst summer after her driver swerved and collided with a lorry while trying to disladge a burning cigarette from her window sill.

Dr Andrew Parrott, at the University of East London, has studied what happens when motorists try to drive and smoke, and found a driver can be distracted by the simple act of inhaling. "It's a similar action to driving while using a mobile phone. Your concentration is inevitably distracted from the road," he says.

The Association of British Insurers says an argument exists within the industry that non-smokers make safer drivers. but the Department of Transport has no plans to echo the drink-driving message to target smokers and insurers

For heavily addicted smokers, foregoing a cigarette might be more dangerous. Dr Parrott adds: "These tests showed that if you're nicotinedependent, your attention while driving is likely to suffer

HE BLACK AND DECKER

NORKMATE WAS INVENTED

BY RON HICKMAN, AN

EX-LOTUS DESIGNER

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

without a cigarette. Nonsmokers are fortunate because they simply don't have this

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) suspects smokerelated accidents go largely unreported. Smokers spark about 260 accidental car fires and take the blame for another 146 from carelessly discarded

matches annually.

A puff while behind the wheel, claims ASH, borders on dangerous driving. The cigarette packet has to be located visually, then opened. the cigarette extracted, put into the mouth and lit - a task that requires one or even both hands leaving the wheel. Just holding a cigarette reduces your grip on the wheel, smoke can obscure your vision, and at night match flames can trigger momentary vision loss.

n the second-hand car market, prices are knocked by the smell of obacco, Robin Oliphant, managing director of Glass's Guide, the car trader's price index, says: "The smell of a car when a dealer sits in it at auction is as important to him

as the car's colour." Cars entering Vauxhall's approved used car scheme. Network Q, get a dose of air freshener before they see the forecourt. But a spokeswoman said that customers sometimes insist that the car has never been driven by a smoker.

The Driving Standards Agency says smoking is not expressly banned during the driving test, but is judged by an examiner as a legitimate reason for failure. Says Christine Nickles: "You have to be able to steer the car properly. so it's a question of control. If someone lit up, they wouldn't be able to control the car, and the examiner would ask them to leave the cigarette until after

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON
A2400 Bioomsbury.
Resurfacing work on Upper
Woburn Place and east
slde of Tavistock Square. A366 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic. A304 Fulham Broadway. Closed both ways between Harwood Road and Barclay

tween Talke (A34) and Longport (A527 Porthill).

A3 Kingston bypass. North-bound lane closure between Shannon Comer (A298) and Coombe Lane junction. Southbound entry slip road closed at junction 10 (M56). M1 Hendon area. Major roadworks at Five Ways Corner, with no access to or from the A1 Great North Way. A3212 Westminster Bridge. Closed overnight and at week-

Major roadworks between Thornaby-on-Tees and North Tees industrial estate M40 Buckinghamshire, Long-term roadworks with a contraflow between junc-tions 1a (M25) and 2 (Beaconsfield). M27 Hampshire. Contraflow between junctions 7 (Hedge End) and 9 (Fareham West). Also major roadworks and contraflow the Leeds junction. between junctions 8 and 10. A31 Ringwood, Hampshire. Major roadworks with a

contratiow. M20 Maidstone, Kent. One lane closed off-peak in both directions. M25 Surrey. Restrictions

ends (9pm-6am)

SOUTH-EAST

Godstone and the A3. SOUTH-WEST
 M5 Bristol, Contraflow across Avonmouth bridge with

50mph limit. M5 Gloucestershire. Major roadworks with only one lane open at roundabout junction with the A419. M49 Gloucestershire. Closed in both directions all

weekend between M4 Sev-em crossing approach and M5 Avonmouth. Diversion via M4 and M5. OMIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

A1 Alconbury, Cambridge-shire. Reduced to one lane northbound during mainte-

nance work at Alconbury Hills (A14/A604), as is the A14. A43 between Kettering and Corby. Resurfacing work be-tween Geddington and Lit-A500 Stoke area, Stafford-shire. Contraflow with only one lane open each way be-

NORTH r Manchester

Also maintenance work be-tween junctions 11 (Cheadle) and 12 (Stockport).
A585 Lancashire. Roadworks on Fleetwood Road, between Wesham Circle and
Hellfire Corner. A19 Middlesbrough area

M1 South Yorkshire. Carriageway reduced to two tween Meadowhall and Roth-erham with 50mph limit. M1 West Yorkshire. Major roadworks continue around A19 Moor Farm round-about, Tyne & Wear, Major roadworks north of Long

Benton at Backworth. WALES Ceredigion, Upper Aberaeron bridge on South Road losed for reconstruction work A48 Carmarthen, Temporary lights and lane restric-tions on Pensarn roundabout (A484).

A44 between Llangurig and Eisteddfa Gurig, Powys. Temporary lights for roadworks. A472 Pontypool, Torfaen. Contraflow between Pontymoile and the Heron

roundabout. SCOTLAND A947 Oldmeldrum to Banff Road, Aberdeenshire. Resurfacing work with contraflow at Balcaim. M8 Edinburgh. Major road-works, with lane closures on the roundabout at junction 2 (Newbridge Spur, M9).

Other delay:

MAJOR ROADWORKS

Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030



Working out at Templars: leisure activities figured promimently in customer demands, but you can work as well ...

Repair your own bodywork while they mend the car

A gym and sporting facilities will all be part of the service at Volvo garages in future, says Sue Baker

aking the car to be serviced has always been a quick route to shedding pounds from your bank balance. Now there is a trend towards inviting you to shed pounds of fat at the same time.

A new garage in Kent, off the M25 near Orpington, has a gym, with changing room and shower, behind the showroom. Customers are offered free use of the facilities, including a running machine, step machine, rowing equipment, exercise bike and training weights, while their cars are worked on.

If they would prefer to play a round of golf while the car is in the workshop, the garage has made arrangements with a nearby club, and is offering a voucher for a free game at the nine-hole course. A courtesy car delivers them to the course and collects them when their car is ready.

More workaholic customers are offered the use of a desk. installed in a corner of the showroom, with free telephone and fax. Nearby is a coffee bar with hot drinks. danish pastries for clevenses and lunchtime sandwiches. At a discreet distance from

the business desk, customers' children are catered for in an activity centre equipped with loys, soft furniture, supplies of Lego and a Super Nintendo video game.

The garage, called Tem-plars, is a Volvo dealership. named after Simon Templar. the fictional hero played by Roger Moore in the cult 1960s television series, The Saint. and now made into a film starring Val Kilmer, due out next month.

The connection comes from the car Moore drove in the role: a Volvo P1800 sports coupé. Kilmer's version races across the screen in its modern

equivalent, a Volvo C70 Coupé, the turbocharged modlaunched at last year's

Motor Show. Andrew Regan, the dealer principal, sees the facilities as part of a growing trend aimed giving motorists a more pleasant experience in their relationship with their garage. He says the gym and golf offers have gone down very well with customers, and the business desk is also in

Templars is part of the Pendragon motor retail group, which carried out research into how motorists would like to spend their time while the car is in for a service. Leisure activities figured prominently: playing golf and visits to a gym came high on the list. Others with more workaholic tendencies enthused over the idea of being given access to office facilities.

egan believes that the motor trade is undergoing evolution and increasingly looking for ways to break down the traditional resistance people have towards their dealings with garages. He admits that it was not so much breaking new ground as opening up another avenue beyond the pattern already set by Daewoo to make car showrooms more welcoming places.

He acknowledged it as a sign that Daewoo's initiative - at first derided in the motor trade - is now steadily percolating through it.

"Their way of doing business is to say to people they will be under no pressure from the moment their feet cross the threshold. I do not believe there is anything dramatically wrong with the garage industry as it is, but there are subtle changes going on to change the perception people have."

Templars is one of the first garages to implement ideas in a programme which Volvo has been quietly developing. Clive Goodall, Volvo's customer relationship development manager, is the mastermind behind the scheme, his job title underlining the message - it has just been changed from sales development manager. He says the motor trade has too often been known in the past for incompetent levels of product knowledge combined with inadequate customer

handling skills. This is an industry problem. We seem to be stuck in the 1960s and we need to go forward, re-engineering it from the customer's viewpoint. Daewoo has broken the mould, it has acted as a catalyst reminding the rest of the industry what they should be doing to make customers feel comfortable," he says.

We need to be benchmarking ourselves not against other car dealers, but against the best that people experience in other areas. What the Ritz Carlton is in the hotel business is what we must aim to be in the motor business."

Garages will increasingly be measured by such details as not only the fact that they offer a cup of coffee to customers, but by the quality of the coffce in the cup.

"We are getting to grips with that level of detail. If a customer pulls up outside a garage when it is raining, someone should be there with an umbrella to greet them, just as happens in good hotels." he

Already two other garages, Tamplins in Croydon. Surrey. and Bridge Cross in Wolverhampton, are piloting facilities and by the end of the year all Volvo dealerships should have

NEWS IN BRIEF Vauxhall

widens the cover

the heat in the sales wars as first of the big carmakers to offer customers three-year warranties. Owners of new Vectra, Omega and Calibra models will benefit to fit in with the three-year cover being offered on the new Sintra. The company says that the introduction is experimental, before extending similar deals to the rest of the range.

Falling 4x4s

GOOD news and bad news in the market for 4x4s and people carriers. Glass's Guide says the glut of models in the market will mean secondhand prices tumbling during the year - good news for prospective owners entering the used market

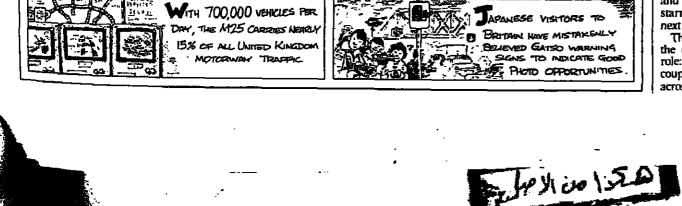
ROVER has got its foot on the expansion throttle in Japan: the company has got 123 dealers and wants 160 by the end of the year with the Rover 200 and 400 selling well, and the evergreen Mini as popular as ever. Rover sells around 9,000 a year to Japan, more than to any other country.

Super success

SUPERBIKES are clearly the coolest transport, with registrations up 92 per cent in February over the same month last year. Best-selling big bike was Honda's Fire-blade CBR900RR followed by Triumph's new Daytona T595. (See page 8)

Fording on

THE LURE of a year's road tax was enough for pensioner Hope Till to buy his 52nd Ford in 47 years. The Reg Vardy dealership in Wolverhampton was so impressed with Hope's devotion to the blue oval that it offered to pay his road tax on each new car, so he traded in his Fiesta for a new one. His first - in 1950, when Attlee was Prime Minister - was a £365 Ford Anglia.



'On first acquaintance, this will prove to be one of the least formidable MPVs'



From the outside: the Sintra offers that essential tall profile and glassy superstructure that declares lots of seats and cat-swinging space

inally, we know. General Motors has at last faunched its answer to the huge line up of people carriers filling show-rooms to bursting point. The Vausthali Sintra is the fatest though it will not be the last in the motoring phenomenon that has seen just about every other major name scrambling people carriers, or multi-pur-

pose vehicles (MPVs). Yet Vauxhall comes to the market after Ford, Volkswagen, Peugeot, Citroën, Chrysler and several others. In answer to "Why bother?", ian Coomber, Vauxhali's executive director of sales and marketing, says: "We have spent considerable time, energy and resource building cus-tomer loyalty. Insuitably, many Vauxhall customers are thinking of changing to a MPV-style vehicle, so it makes sense to develop and sell what they want."

ine (I

The other question is whether it has been worth the wait. Well, the Sintra is already tried and tested, a Europeanised version of the General Motors people carriers built in the US. The Sintra comes from the platform shared by three GM companies in the States, marketed as the Chevrolet Venture, Pontiac Trans Sport and Oldsmobile Silhouette.

But how different is the Sintra from its rivals here in Europe? It will harely register on the Richter scale of automotive arrivals. This is not necessarily a criticism, for no fullsized MPV has managed to leap free of the basic format brilliantly resolved by Renault and Matra when founding the

Ian Morton assesses the Sintra, Vauxhall's entry into

the increasingly busy marketplace of people carriers

modern MPV movement (well, at least in Europe) with the Espace - and that goes for Renault itself with the all-new Espace. It is a question of juggling the dimensions and than radical reform.

The Sintra has the essentials: tall profile and glassy superstructure that declares lots of seats and cat-swinging space, the dominant driving position and comprehensive visibility, a control area that tries very hard to emulate a "real car", multi-seat interior layout, easy access through sliding rear side-doors.

There are differences, of course. While main competitors such as the Ford Galaxy. VW Sharan and Chrysler Voyager - let alone the Toyota Previa and the forthcoming recast Espace — feature boldly curvy fascia treatment and high-style contemporary detail, the Sintra favours a deep

MARQUE OF THE MONTH



and heavy-looking dash with round-cornered mouldings and ultra-conventional dials and switchgear. Every item is large, clear, and a short reach away. The only conspicuously space-age touch is a liquid crystal display trip-informa-

tion panel on the dash. Conservative it may all be, but among the MPVs this will prove one of the least formidable on first acquaintance for the average motorist, and certainly for the motorist familiar with modern Vauxhalls. There are no problems of scale for anyone who wants simply to hop in and drive off.

SINTRA FACTS AND FIGURES

Engines: 2.2-litre, four-cylinder developing 139 brake horse power through five-speed gearbox. Also 3-litre V6. developing 198bhp through four-speed automatic box. Performance: 2.2 — 0-60mph in 12.5 seconds; top speed 118mph; average fuel consumption 29.4mpg. V6 — 0-60mph in 10.5 seconds, top speed 126 mph.

Equipment: Air-conditioning, anti-lock brakes, dual airbags, alloy wheels, twin sliding side doors, pollen filter. Options include eight-seat configuration (£750). electric sun roof (£700) and metallic paint (£240). Price: CD2.2 lov, £19,100; CDX 3.0 V6, £25,350.

particularly a plus in the hire market, where familiarity breeds confidence rather than

Inevitably, there is some compromise. The gear lever is stretch while the tilt-adjust steering column, available only with CDX specification, really should be part of the standard specification for the seat height adjustment does not quite achieve the ideal on its own.

But the basic CD specification vehicle still makes a strong case, with anti-lock brakes, air-conditioning, twin airbags, power-operation of the front windows and generous door mirrors, remote control central locking, alarm and engine immobiliser, alloy wheels and five seats.

in its humblest form, the Sintra arrives at £19,100 with a 2.2-litre, 16-valve engine pushing 130 brake horse power through a five-speed manual box. It is a remarkably refined and discreet unit, not least of all because it is Vauxhall's first to feature twin balancer shafts, that great British invention from the pioneering days latterly rediscovered by the likes of Mitsubishi, Lancia, Porsche and Ford.

Driven off the crankshaft, the shafts contra-rotate at twice the engine speed and have the effect of cancelling out secondary inertia forces. So they quell almost all me-chanical vibration and noise. This 2.2-litre. four-cylinder unit accordingly delivers vir-

tually as smoothly as a six, hauling from rest to 60mph in around 12.5 seconds and showing 118mph flat out. More usefully, it pulls comfortably in fifth gear from 1,000rpm, has energetic responses in the crucial middle speed band, and cruises comfortably at 70mph for a modest 2,500rpm. The engine will spin to mains barely heard below the

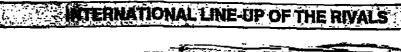
red line. This is due to levels of tyre and suspension noise, sufficient to dominate even on an average road, and it must be said that the ride is on the firm side. While individual ruts and ridges get their edges rounded off, a series of undulations taken at particular speeds can get the whole vehicle pitching. For the sake of overall smoothness, a little less European sportiness and a little more USstyle ride comfort might improve the balance.

ut for the driver in a hurry, that sporty feel does not mislead as the Sintra turns out to have real cross-country ability. No matter how hard it is thrust over unkind roads. this MPV does not allow itself to be thrown off-line. Jaunty it may be, but it always runs well-knit and tidy and never feels top-heavy.

High speeds can be main-tained along bumpy straights. and the consistency of road rumble and the lack of engine noise might lead to excessive approach speeds as the bends arrive, but the brakes are great, the steering has pleasing elasticity and enough weight to induce confidence, and in tight fast curves the driver's nerve is likely to give way well before the Sintra's roadholding. The motorist determined to make up lost time can give passengers an interesting if not wholly comfortable experience.

The top model has a moother manner. Powered by a 3-litre V6, worth 198bhp through a four-speed automatic box, it shows 60mph within 10.5 seconds and whirls on to 126mph. Maximum torque is delivered at 3,600rpm and there is never a pause in the power flow. The ride seems more fluid in this version. which suits a car with CDX status, a £25,350 price tag and such goodies as power front seats and sunroof, automatic load levelling, cruise control, remote audio controls on the steering wheel, compact disc player, telephone installation kit and seven seats.

These seats are not the burden they might seem when it comes to clearing more luggage space, since the frames are magnesium alloy and at 38lbs they weigh considerably less than those of other MPVs -- a bonus for families who decide they want to switch and swap their seating arrangements on those vital long holiday outings.





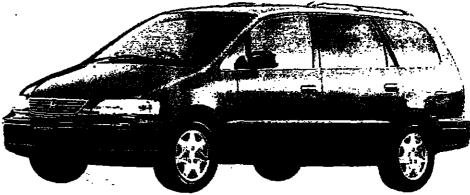
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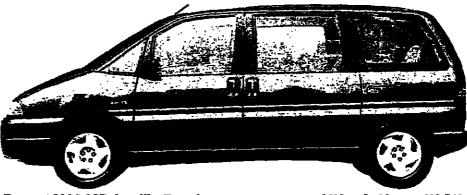
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From the inside: efforts to emulate a "real" car combine with multi-seat layout and easy-access sliding rear side-doors

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Helen Mound revels in the breathtaking power offered by the Range Rover S and the Porsche 911 Turbo

All-conquering kings of the off-road

hey look like speed-boat and cruiser as they plough a bow wave any sea-going would be proud of. Except that these two are distinctly landlubbing fourwheelers - and built more with performance in mind than taking to the water.

Think four-wheel drive and images of lumbering box-shaped vehicles with the aerodynamics of the average house brick leap to mind. Not Porsche's stunning 911 Turbo though — and definitely not the king of the off-roaders, the Range Rover after it has been spiced up by J. E. Engineering and the man who knows all about Range Rovers because he invented them: Spen King.

The Range Rover has supercharged power, the Porsche twin-turbo-charged power. J. E.'s engineers mance specialists for their work on competition cars - have rebuilt the Range Rover's 4.6litre V8 engine to precise tolerances so they could fit a supercharger. And all the power comes from the simplest of sources: a little button on the dashboard. One press unleashes an extra 115 brake horse power which kicks in with a jolt. Next to the button is a light that glows red when the Range Rover S is running in normally aspirated form. which means a by-pass valve is open and the belt-driven supercharger - the "blower" - simply expels its charge into the atmosphere.

Press the button though and the light turns green, the bypass valve shuts and: Wham! The blower does its stuff. Normal acceleration figures from standstill to 60mph of 10.5 seconds become a Linford Christie rocket-powered sprint, completed in just 6.8 seconds, while the top speed keeps on rising, from 119mph

Switching the supercharger on and off with a button is a gimmick, but a fantastic one which surprises passengers with the extra wallop.

King, a legend for designing the Range Rover and now J. E. Engineering's design director, says: "Today's engines are very complex from an electronic management perspective. To alter any part presents knock-on effects through the We had to analyse these before we could start the reconstruction process.".

That analysis has resulted in supercharged-performance that feels perfectly at home in the Range Rover. After all, you expect the 911 to be fast, very is one thing, but just feeling extensive engine modifications



House-on-wheels versus slippery curves: the 911 leads the Range Rover S through the water, but the manner in which these two 4x4s can deliver their spine-tingling performance is worth comparing

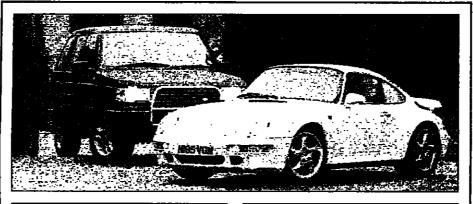
the astonishing power and the lateral acceleration generated in cornering is breathtaking.

ven in supercharged thrust mode, the Range Rover S disappears into a dot in the 911's rear-view mirror in seconds. The contest becomes house-on-wheels versus slippery curves, a direct comparison which isn't fair. Though the manner in which these two 4x4s can deliver their spinetingling performance is worth comparing, especially on the trickiest rural roads - or the

Although the Range Rover can't catch the Porsche through twisty roads, it is remarkably agile for something so enormous. Fire up the supercharged Range Rover and, apart from the sexy fast indeed. Knowing it's the burble from the exhaust, fastest, most powerful Porsche there's little to suggest such under the bonnet. There is certainly no temperamental behaviour common to reworked engines, no pops or hiccups, just an enthusiastic throb from the V8 that's been slightly enlarged to 4.65-litres.

The car would be a bit of a handful without J. E.'s uprated suspension -- all that performance with softer dampers would test even the strongest faith in its stability but stiffened it hustles along securely and takes corners confidently, though there is a need for more feedback from the steering. The "S" responds to gain confidence in its ability to turn swiftly. Perhaps the vague steering, a side-effect of off-roaders shod with huge tyres, is a little out of place on a near-£100,000 speedster.

But there is the advantage of extra ground clearance if water does loom — something that would worry the wayward



RANGE ROVER S

Engine: 4.65-litre supercharged V8 developing 340bhp through four-speed automatic. Performance: 0-60mph in 6.8 seconds, top speed 133mph; fuel economy likely to be around 15mpg average.

Price: £88,824 (includes engine, suspension and brake modifications).

PORSCHE 911 TURBO

Engine: Six-cylinder, 3.6-litre, twin-turbo developing 408bhp at 5,750rpm through a six-speed manual gearbox.

Performance: 0-62mph in 4.5 seconds, top speed I80mph; fuel economy 13.4mpg in town (no figures for water-logged travel).

Price: £97,950 (personalised trim £2,085).

Porsche driver, 4x4 or not. Ron Hall, J. E.'s chairman, says: We've worked on many rally cars that compete in the strenuous Paris-Dakar Rally, but not one has ever gone out with engine failure, so we are pretty proud of our engine conver-

The "S" is a slick conversion that shows in both the performance and the price. For these two are the only 4x4 cars on British roads which boast price tags closing in on £100,000. The 911 Turbo starts at £97.950 and personalised trim is an extra £2,000-plus. for a Range Rover S is bespoke: £33,500 for the handbuilt supercharged V8 engine; £47,765 for the basic car and, if you indulge in the impressive list of extras, you could be looking at a Ferrari-priced king-of-the-off-road. Options include uprated brakes and suspension for £7,527, walnut and leather interior trim for £10,340, magnesium wheels at £3,925, a satellite navigation system for another £7,214, and electrically-controlled individual rear seats with fridge, cocktail bar and matching crystal for yet another £21,032.

nd the supercharged Range Rover is only one of J.E. Engineering's creations. The company offers a performance conversion for Land Rover's TDi engine too and a V8 preparation for road and track in 4-litre, 4.5 and 5-litre form. If your preference, the business specialises in wood and leather.

Putting together such a meaty package takes times four weeks — but that is not so long to wait for what is probably the best - certainly the fastest and most exciting -4x4 money can buy.

A challenge of mud, toil, tears and sweat

reated by sadists, attempted by masochists, completed by those who now know better. Yes, it's the Camel Trophy - 20 or so days of filth, boil-in-the-bag bush tucker and extreme exhaustion across thousands of kilometres of inhospitable terrain, making for one of the world's toughest motoring events. If the defining memory of last year's competition, through the Kalimantan rainforests of Indonesia and Borneo, was mud, mud and more mud, this year's will probably be the vast extremes in temperature.

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From the minus 10C of the Mongolian north, to the plus 40C of the Gobi desert should, if nothing else, make for a display of Camel's entire autumn, winter, spring and summer clothes collection.

But there are doubts as to whether) the natives of Mongolia will be queuing up beside this 1,500 mile catwalk. They, like other sensible people, will be monitoring the progress of the competition, to start on May II. from the comfort of their own homes - either that or attempting to work out exactly why these crazy sportsmen are driving their Land Rovers through the impossi-ble. But just how will the vehicles stand up?

For 16 of the 17 years of the Camel Trophy, Land Rover has supplied the transport. An official co-sponsor of the Trophy since 1992, Land Rover knows that the performance of its vehicles during the Camel competitions will be a testimony to

the British workhorses. The vehicles have done us a sterling service." says Nick Horne of Global Events Management, organisers of the Carnel Trophy. "They are exceptionally good motor cars; robust enough and ideally suited to the type of conditions and terrain we encounter. Last year, for example, was probably one of, if not the, toughest event so far but the cars You don't have to

be mad to take

part in the Camel Trophy, but it

helps, says Perry Cleveland-Peck

stood up to it exceptionally well — they got through 2.500 kilometres of

The 2.5-litre Discovery TDi Land Rovers used in the Camel Trophy are essentially the same as their Solihull production-line cousins. The competition Discovery TDis. now running in their eighth consecutive Trophy, are fitted with sump and fuel tank guards to protect their undersides from such dangers as submerged tree stumps or hidden rocks which might rip open their mechanical innards (fuel tank protection was introduced after Brazil in 1984 when a tank was holed), and the Land Rovers incorporate raised air-intake pipes to allow for a continued supply of oxygen to the engine when most of the car is submerged during river crossings.

Inside, the drivers get satellite navigation, vital for establishing their position, VHF radio and satellite 'phone, which provides essential communication with the competition basecamps, and an electronic trip computer to monitor the vehicle's speed, fuel consumption and distances covered. Also included are fire extinguishers and a hand-held winch control unit which enables the 8,500lb electric winch on the front bumper, used to drag bogged-down vehicles from overpossessive mud, to be operated from outside the car.

There are no modifications to the transmission, the turbocharged, direct-injection diesel engines or the power units. "We add on equipment for the event: bull bars, extra lights, roll cages," says Gwil Berry, Land Rover's Special Events Manager, and we stiffen the suspension to take the extra weight, with double helper springs at the rear, and that is about it "

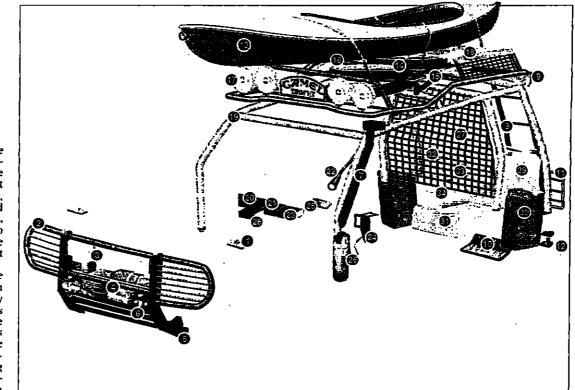
During the event the teams are competing pretty much on their own so their vehicles have to carry everything to enable the occupants to be entirely self-sufficent. There are two 22-litre drinking water cans stowed in the rear of the vehicle behind a dog guard (to keep dislodged equipment from flying around the passenger compartment), two waterproof aluminium food boxes and two 22-littre fuel cans.

Yor Mongolia 97, the organisers have introduced a num-ber of new special competiber of new special competitions: mountain biking and kayaking are included, so the Land Rovers have a full-length runf-rack which will hold a two-man kayak. two mountain bikes and the spare parts for the bikes. Also housed up top will be the essential shovel and pick axe — without a doubt some of the most vital and well used pieces of equipment in the event.

"We have established a specification which we have used for the last seven or eight years," says Borry. The same goes for the ambulance and film crew's support vehicles."

Each year a team from Land Rover accompanies the Trophy organisers on a "pre-scout" four of the potential course. The tour takes between three and four weeks and occurs approximately a year before the event — though a lot can change in the intervening time.

"All the years are different." says Berry. You can read about the



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When it comes to the weather,

Mongolia will prove to be a real

ROOF RACK 13 Two-man kaya 16 Pick axe 17 Spot lamps

18 Stowage for ropes, jacks and spare parts

system 22 Map lamp 24 Spot lamp 25 Winch contro

26 Fire extinguish

27 Dog guard

REAR COMPARTMENT STOWAGE 29 Two 22-litre water cans 30 Two 22-litre tuel cans 31 Aluminium food boxe 32 Spare parts box 33 Tool kit

environment and the climate on a wet weather and boggy terrain. pre-scout report and find that when providing great stretches of mud and thus ample opportunity for the the event actually happens the conditions are totally different."

vourite. If that does not get to the endurance-test for the Land Rovers. teams, the final 600 miles or so The event will pass through three stretch across the heat and sand of very different climates: the lakes of Hovsgol in the mountainous north the Gobi desert surely will. of Mongolia will, at the start of the However, all this has been accompetition, still be frozen, though counted for at Land Rover. "We are by mid-May the ice should be confident that the engine and transbeginning to melt. As the competimission will work well within these parameters," says Berry. "We would tion moves south through Mongonot expect the vehicle to give us any lia's savannah steppe and its rolling grasslands it will encounter very problems in that terrain. What you

have to take into account is the guy behind the wheel - it is down to him and how he looks after the vehicle." participants to try their hands at In fact the driver seems to be the winching their vehicles from the quagmire — a Carnel Trophy fa-

only drawback to the smooth running of the competition vehicles. "I don't think we have ever had an engine go, for instance, or gearboxes or any major component parts." says Nick Horne, the event organiser. "The cars get beaten around a bit, of course, but if something does break, nine times out of ten it is down to the human element - either they have negotiated an obstacle badly or damaged the car because of their ineptitude."



Driving is only the start

■ A VEHICLE-based competitive expedition across some of the world's most unforgiving terrain, the Camel Trophy is neither a race nor a rally but a challenge for man and machine.

FOLLOWING rigorous selection procedures, including a week in Seville, applicants from as many as 20 countries are whittled down until there are just two people per team (some countries have more than one team) left to represent their nations for the actual event.

■ TEAMS have to battle their vehicles through some of the world's toughest terrain while performing special tasks such as bridge building. trekking by foot, building environmental fieldstations, reopening routes or, as with this year's event, simply competing in other sports activities including, orienteering, mountain biking and kayaking.

■ WHATEVER the course or the country, the competitors come home tired but with a sense of a job well done — and Camel have plenty of pictures of glamorous, chiselled-looking sportsmen to use in their product advertisments.

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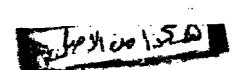
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the colour and zest of grands prix on your walls with the launch of a set of Formula One posters. They come from a new company, Formula One Grand Prix Archives - head-ed by Jeffrey Pattinson. chairman of Coys of Kensington, the auctioneers - which sets out to produce evocations of the classic post-

NOW you can have

Prix art: back to the classic age ers of the Twenties and Thirties. The posters are by Dexter Brown, an artist who has won commissions from the Pininfarina design studios as well as Porsche. There is a collection of 18 posters, priced £295 or £18.95 individually. Further informa-



■ AUTOLOK 2000, the mechanical steering wheel lock, above, has been approved by the influential TNO Research Institute in the Netherlands, adding to approval in Britain from the police and the Association of British Insurers. Cost about £70 from Halfords and the AA. Further information on 0161-624-8171.



PRICES of Alfa Romeo cars are up, with the Italian manufacturer announcing average increases of 1.4 per cent, though chances are the increases will not hurt

the company's increasing sales after some lean years. The new price list means the range starts with the 145 2.0 Cloverleaf at £15,988 and goes up to the 164 3.0 Cloverleaf executive saloon at £32,250.

MEANWHILE, Ford has upped the stakes to produce the sportiest mid-range saloon with a five-door Mondeo ST24. Four-spoke, 16-inch alloy wheels set it apart from the rest of the range, while side skirts and spoilers offer a sporting look. Under the bonnet is the Duratec 2.5-litre, 170bhp V6 worth a 140mph top speed. The car comes to market as the company enters a five-door hatchback Mondeo into the British Touring car Championships.

Turin is shrouded in bland

ROAD TEST

SINCE the launch of the Cinquecento in 1993, Fiat has shown a remarkable flair for innovative design in the massproduced car market, writes Helen Mound. Along with the stylish Punto and the stunning Bravo and Brava, the company has proved that everyday hatchbacks don't have to be everyday designs.

Add to that the gorgeous Coupé and the pretty Barchetta roadster and there's sufficient evidence of some very clever people in the style-houses of Turin.

How then, did the new Fiat

Marea make it into production? Despite wearing the new, neat family nose — dark grey grille and horizontal headlights — the Marea and the Marea Weekend (or estate) show a remarkable lack of imagination. It's as if, faced with entering the fiercely competitive medium car sector and well aware of its previous failures in this market with the Regata and the Tempra, Fiat lost its nerve and played safe with a very ordinary-looking pair.

The two cars aren't without individual features: the saloon has vertical shapes in the rear light clusters and flared front and rear wings, the estate has rear light lamps that extend up to the roof and a split rear door. But there's an element of blandness

■ THE OLD model Mazda 323 was sold in Britain from 1985 to 1994 and is still sought as keenly by network dealers as by customers, reports CAP Black Book.

The car once described as "efficiency on wheels", the 323 has a reputation for reliability, build quality and for maintaining second-hand values, writes Vaughan Freeman.

No matter the age of the car, the hatchback versions are much more desirable than the saloon equivalents, and the 1.3-litre and 1.6-litre cars do best on the retail



Fiat Marea: many attributes, but did the company lose its nerve?

that's disappointing to anyone who has admired Fiat's inspired designs in recent years.

In its defence, the Marea has plenty of other attributes. Ergonomics engineers — originally employed to ensure that the Punto, Bravo and Brava were comfortable for the largest pos-

FORECOURT

market, although the 1.6-litre

The relatively high prices fetched by any 323 on the

forecourt reflect the fact that they

are fairly scarce second-hand.

Best buy is the 1993 L-reg 1.0 GLX

Fastback with a sunroof on

average mileage, for which you

can expect to pay around £8,000.

Avoid the 1.1-litre cars, four-wheel

drive versions, and any tired pre-

Turbo is not as popular.

sible proportion of motorists have calculated that 88 per cent of all possible human frames will be comfortable in the front seats and 97.5 per cent in the rear. In traditional Fiat style, all

models have suspension settings that provide a sporty feel and engines that manage agreeable

■ WHEN Toyota's Lexus luxury saloon was unveiled, the shock

waves throughout European motor manufacturers could almost

be felt, so impressive was it. That

The Lexus LS400 has proved

very popular during the last 18 to

24 months, due in part to some

superb reviews in the motoring

sections of the press and on

television. At auction, the LS400

has consistently fetched prices

from bidders at the very top end

The LS400 benefits from tre-

of anything expected.

reputation has never slackened.

FIAT MAREA

Engine: Petrol, 1.6 (103bhp), 1.8 litre (113bhp) and 2-litre (147bhp); diesel, 1.9 (75bhp and 100bhp) and 2.4

Exterior SED

diesel (124bhp). Performance: 1.8-litre -0-62mph in 10 secs, top speed 121mph.

Economy: 1.8-litre -28.5mpg in town. Equipment: Electric front windows, driver's airbag, central locking, height adjustable driver's seat and steering wheel. Price: From £12,357 for the 1.6SX to £18,087 for the Weekend TDI25HLX.

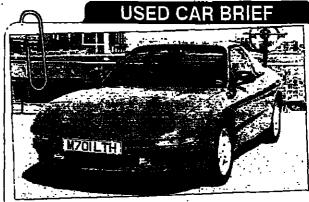
levels of driver satisfaction. This may be a little tiring for drivers of the smaller-engined models who prefer soft cruisers, but on the whole people buy Fiats for sporting flavour, and in the Marea they won't be disappointed.
Inside there is a degree of style

- except if you opt for the rather too beige trim. Fabrics and plastics have an air of quality. aithough the former are rather plain by today's standards. The centre console on the dashboard houses the ventilation controls and Fiat's neat integrated stereo

system from the Brava and Bravo. Fiat's claim that the Marea is a viable alternative to the trade-off between spacious and practical cars, and performance is valid. It's hard to decide if these are driver's cars first and practical transport second; certainly, they make an ideal company or family car -- so long as you're a keen driver.

mendous build quality, a silky REPLACEMENT
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1220; full exhaust smooth engine, backed by a long warranty and second-hand values that are best described as 'blue chip".

The Lexus was voted America's best car a couple of years ago, and has also garnered plaudits from some observers as one of the finest cars built anywhere in the world during the past decade. which explains why bargains are virtually non-existent. As a result, expect to pay around £14,000 for even the earliest examples with high mileage.



FORD PROBE
The Probe inherited the role of the Capri coupé in the Ford line-up but
has falled to capture the toyalty and following of its predecessor. Built
in America and based on the Mazda MX-6, the front wheel-drive Probe was launched in 1994 as a 2-litre, 16-valve and a 2.5-litre, 24-valve V6 worth 165 brake horse power. A mild cosmetic make-over in 1995 added body-coloured mirrors, redesigned sports seats and an improved immobiliser system activated by the ignition key.

GOOD NEWS is the equipment: three or five-spoke alloy wheels, anti-theft system with immobiliser, central locking, electric window, split/folding rear electric wholow, sparjoading rear-seats, electric aerial and sinted glass. A slippery-shaped coupé that in both engine forms gives adequate performance with even the 2.0 litre capable of 125mph.

BAD NEWS
Bland styling too
American for British
taste. The Probe's
four seats will never
seat four in comfort. The rear se are best for very small children with short necks and legs but come into their own as over-uphoistered catch-alls for maps, cassettes, jackets and briefcases

LOOK FOR
The 2.5-litre which has
an electric sunroof,
while 2-litre cars
fitted with the "Plus"
option pack benefit from sunroof, cruise control and improved audio system. Cars fitted with the optional air conditioning are worth ng out too.

Cars without the surroof which are not as popular. The V6 engine is reported as prone to vaive gear clatter. Watch for stone chip damage especially on the bonnet leading edge, for alloy wheels that have been damaged on kerbs and for scuffed bumpers due to careless perking. INSURANCE from AA Insurance

SAFETY
No Department of Transport Safety rating but twin alrhags, anti-lock disc brakes, speed sensitive power-steering, quadralink rear suspension and wide sports tyres giving excellent road grip will count.

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£500; catalytic converter £380; headlamp £50; front brake pade (pair) £30; alternator (exchange)

PRICES Expect to pay £9,000 for a 1994 L-reg 2.01, 16-valve coupe; £10,500 for a 1995 M-reg 2.01, 16-valve; £12,750 for a 1996 N-reg 2.01, 18 valve; £10,500 for a 1994 L-reg 2.5-litre, 24-valve V6; £12,300 for a 1995 M-reg 2.5-litre, 24-valve V6, and £14,800 for a 1996 N-reg 2.5-litre, 24-valve V6.

OVERALL With its Japanese background and American styling, the Probe's disappointing sales might reflect customer suspicion about the car's genes. However, in 2.5-titre guise this 136mph car is a highty competent performer. A borrus is the size of the boot, which becomes even more impressive when the token rear seats are folded down. An underrated and over-looked coupé.

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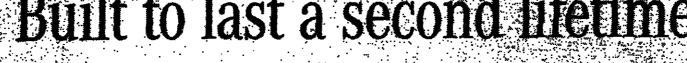
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Yamaha generates sweet thunder for riders of a certain age

ver since Kawasaki launched its awesome ZZRIIOO in 1990, ripping up the speed records with a guaranteed 175mph plus, other factories have been happy to concentrate on developing light, agile, sports bikes more closely related to their race track cousins than Kawasaki's muscle machine.

But manufacturers are now eyeing up the sales potential of providing outrageously powerful machines. For these bikes appeal to the new breed of motorcyclist - the well-heeled, well-fleshed mature owners revisiting the activities of their youth. This time round. though, they have power of wallet. matched only by their exacting demands.

These born-again bikers have been "spoiled" by car ownership. They are used to speed with convenience, comfort with performance. Their sports vehicles can look the part but must provide the ease of use and civilised demeanour as befits people of maturity and social standing. Anyway, your bones can't be crunched into a full racing crouch so easily when you have 40 years plus on the odometer.

For them Yamaha has taken up

Paul Myles on the motorbike designed for a generation that wants to go back

the speed challenge using a formula developed by its own customers. These enthusiasts wanted the combined power and dependability of Yamaha's old FZRI000 with the light weight and razor-sharp handling of their YZF750.

The larger engine was shoehorned into the small chassis and most people raved about the result. Yamaha has now sensibly followed its owners' wishes and developed the YZF 1000 Thunderace. And, in a bid to break Kawasaki's dominance of the muscle market, the company has developed a radical new fairing to improve the appalling aerodynamics that blights a motorcycle's bid for decent top

The bodywork's most noticeable feature is the elongated nose cone which gives the machine a Pinocchio charm. It's a concept that Honda has copied and accentuated still further with its newly announced 1100cc Blackbird. Some of the more hysterical specialist press expect 190mph from the Blackbird, though 180mph would be more realistic. The Thunderace, too, has suffered from wild expectations. Many expected it to snatch the speed title, but its 170mph potential fails to trouble the big Kawasaki's

flat-out speed. It seems ironic that the fastest, most powerful, machines on the road are not the pure sports machines. For, like the Kawasaki. the Thunderace is most definitely a machine from the grand tourer stable. That is to say a fast motor cycle aimed more at covering long distances than focused on scratching around race tracks.

The big Yamaha, weighing in at 435lbs, is not the lightest sportster around and it's weight tells in the extra effort needed to haul it through corners. Weight may have also affected the bike's tracking over irregular road surfaces, though I suspect that the tyres, otherwise grippy Pirelli Dragons, do not suit the machine's rather vague steering.
The 1,000cc across-the-frame

THUNDERACE

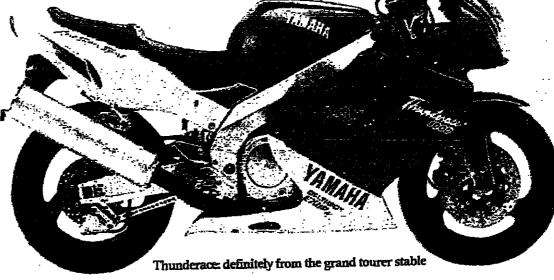
Engine: Liquidcooled, 4-cylinder, double overhead cam 20valve, 1-litre developing 145bhp at 10,000rpm through 5-speed gearbox and final chain drive.

Body: Aluminium frame with telescopic multi-adjustable front suspension.

Performance: 0-60mph in 2.8 seconds, top speed 170mph. Price: £8,999 (plus £250 charges).

four-cylinder motor is phenomenalfast, as it should be with a aimed power output of 145bhp. But probably the single biggest performance advantage on the bike are it's brakes. These conventional four-pot calipers are the best I've ridden with and are worth several yards on the opposition charging

While the Thunderace is dressed



in swooping body work styled and painted like a racing bike, the riding position is quite relaxed and comfortable. The rider will suffer few aches over distances, save for the poorly shaped seat that will trouble the best cushioned backside within 100 miles of touring.

Bikes such as the Thunderace and, more especially the new Blackbird, are aimed at the growing numbers of new people coming to motor cycling. These mature adolescents are seduced by the young sexy image. They have the suits and boots. spending power to pay for what they want and what they want is a fantasy vehicle to pander their egos

the process. Taproom bragging about the bike's speed potential is as much an

while being none too demanding in

attraction for these owners as performing the feat itself. And they get to stand around this racy little number in equally natty leather

With the Thunderace, these thrill seekers get oodles of speed, comfort and style and all for just under £9,000 -- not small change, but little enough for a First Class ticket to return to your youth.

My dream car's the one I don't drive

raham Swift, winner of last year's Booker Prize, was at the centre of controversy earlier this week when he denied that he took the storyline and style for his prize-winning novel, Last Orders, from William Faulkner's As I Lay Dying.

Writing in The Times on Monday, Swift launched a vehement rebuttal of suggestions of plagiarism made by John Frow, Professor of English at the University of Queensland in a letter to The Australian's Review of Books. Last Orders tells how four

men take the ashes of a butcher from south London, to scatter on the sea at Margate. Since the plot revolves around the drive, and one of the main characters is a car dealer, STEERING COLUMN



Graham Swift, author of Last

Orders, talks to **Eve-Ann Prentice** some of the novel dwells on the nature of man and car.

How did you first learn

With gritted teeth. It took me years to recover from the doomed lessons I had in my teens. I just thought there were some people (my father) who were meant to drive and others (me) who weren't But when I was 35 I signed up with a driving school and spent months getting intimately acquainted with the road lay-out of south-west London.

What was your first car?

A Vauxhall Nova, because it was easy to park and there was a Vauxhall dealer just Almost never, though just



Renault Megane: "If I'd seen the commercials before buying it, they would have put me off"

down the road in case anything went wrong.

What car do you drive now?

A Renault Megane. (There's a Renault dealer just down the road, too.)

Do you enjoy driving?

occasionally, driving down an empty M4 before dawn or zipping along lovely Devon lanes, I begin to see what the fuss is about

What is your dream car?

The hired limo my publisher sometimes lays on to take me to out-of-town reading engagements. Currently it's a very

shiny, comfortable, black Mercedes, but the key feature is the great driver, Mike, who knows the quickest route to everywhere.

What is your worst habit in the car?

I'm told I tut a lot, though I'm sure this is an unwarranted

What infuriates you about most other drivers?

You mean apart from the fact that they exist? I do slightly mind when you do something polite, like letting another car in front of you, and the driver doesn't give that vestigial

What is the most unusual thing you have done in

Drive it. I don't need a car for my work because I work mostly at home. I don't drive much in London because it takes for ever and there's nowhere to park. I don't drive when going out for the evening because it stops you having a

What do you listen to while driving?

A pretty fair mix, from Sixties Soul to Ravel and Schubert, choral Purcell or Handel when driving through rolling English countryside are pretty unbeatable. One of the all-time great road songs must be Joni Mitchell's "Coyote".

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Announce that the privatisation of public transport has been a completely lunatic idea. and resign at once in shame.

What is your worst/favourite car advertisement?

I'm amazed that any work. There was one for something called a Probe which I thought was a spoof - why not call it a Penis and have done with it? I did think the one where a couple of hillbillies mistake a VW for a UFO was rather clever, though as it was based on that old standby of finding foreigners stupid, it's probably not to my credit that I laughed. If I'd seen the Megane commercials before I bought mine. they would certainly have put me off. Why should anyone want to identify with a smirking nerd who has conversa-

tions with his car?

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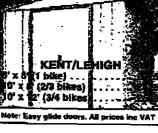
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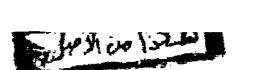
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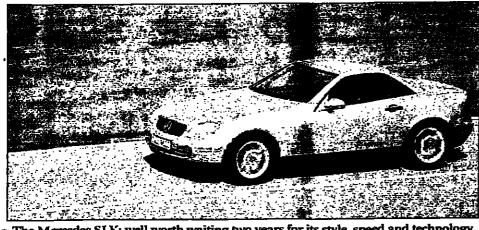
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Alan Copps on the SLK experience

Just sit back and enjoy the magic tourer



5 The Mercedes SLK: well worth waiting two years for its style, speed and technology

ome cars have unexpected virtues. When offered a Mercedes SLK to drive for a veek, I jumped at the chance. Who wouldn't? But what, I wondered, could I add to its The neat little two-seater

was one of the most lauded car I have ever sat in. cars of last year, praised by pundits from all corners of the globe. If you want to order one in Britain now you'll have to wait two years for delivery. Such is the demand that a few speculators who booked early have been able to sell on their cars for premiums of up to £15,000, half the basic on-theroad price. Since the car was launched.

I have read acres of newsprint in praise of its startling good looks, enthusing about its performance and marvelling at the ingenuity of its folding roof, which tucks into the boot at the touch of a button.

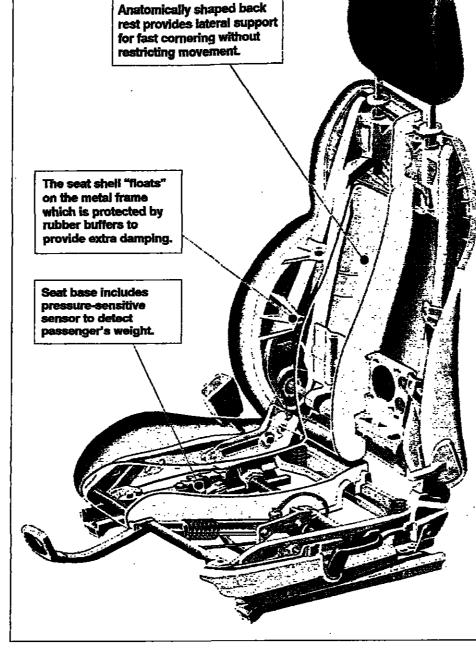
500 miles, I can report that, with one reservation, all these accounts were justified. But there's one thing I would like to add, which perhaps all those pundits overlooked in their enthusiasm for style, speed or technology: the SLK is simply the most comfortable

That doesn't just mean that by some quirk of design the scarlet leather sports seats in my sparkling silver model were peculiarly adapted to the gangling frame of a bony sixfooter with a creaking spine. They faced a far tougher test. My wife, Anna, was in the final month of pregnancy when we set off on a 130-mile non-stop drive from London to the West Country. We cruised motorways, dashed along A roads, and on twisting byways I found a few opportunities to wind up the supercharged

engine and corner at speed. Not perhaps the ideal way to vanced state of pregnancy, but there were no complaints from the passenger seat. And when we got to our destination. Anna didn't want to get out. This is just the most comfortable seat I've been in for weeks," she said, as I held the wide door open. There is, I discovered, a

reason for this sensation. The seats of the SLK have individual suspension. In place of the usual steel springs each seat has a polyurethane cushion mounted on a plastic shell. But the shell itself is jointed at the front and linked to the metal seat frame by two small coil springs at the rear, so it floats on the frame, insulating driver and passenger from jerks and jolts but still transmitting the road "feel" that is so vital if you want to use the performance of a car like this.

The passenger seat has another attribute. Its cushion contains electronic sensors which register the weight of



the occupant and whether a child safety seat has been installed. If the load on the seat is less than 12kg, the sensors automatically signal for the passenger airbag to be turned bility of "airbag injury" to a child in the event of an accident. Mercedes' own child seat

This is just one example of the tremendous attention to detail in the interior. The

incorporates sensors that give

out the same signal.

look at and, like the controls, are designed to make driving a pleasure. The car handles with absolute certainty, its road manners are impeccable and

WIN AN SLK

■ READERS today have a final chance to win a Mercedes Benz SLK and help raise money for Comic Relief. See page 17.

precise in the classic German fashion. There are such yards of power and roadholding to spare it's difficult to think of anywhere in Britain where you could approach the limits of its performance. But even at slower speeds it's tremendous fun to drive.

The "hairy sports car" enthusiast might jib at the standard automatic transmission and the sophisticated creature comforts, but that would be to set one's face against progress. In terms of technology direct-



Engine: 2.3-litre, four-cylinder supercharged producing 193bhp at 5,300rpm. Transmission: Five-speed computer-controlled automatic with clutchless manual option. Performance: 0-62mph in 7.5 seconds. Maximum speed 130mph. Economy: Urban 21.2mpg: extra-urban 40.4mpg: combined cycle 31.4mpg. Price: £30,090 on the road.

ed mwards driving pleasure it's a worthy successor to the legendary Mercedes sports

cars of the past. Of all the cars I've driven recently, this more than any was the one in which I felt I could cross continents rather than mere countries. It makes you want to see thousands of miles of road unwind before you. But there lies the contradiction, not just for the SLK but for several of the current crop of roadsters: for although Mercedes call it a "small sports car" the SLK is really a very grand little tourer - for those

who know how to travel light. When the roof is packed away inside the upper half of the boot, then, thanks to the clever collapsible spare tyre, there is room for the regulation set of golf clubs plus two overnight bags. But if you're going to travel thousands rather than hundreds of miles you probably want to take more than that. There is a luggage rack option, which will take bags, skis or even a bicycle, and which works with roof up or down. But I fear that might detract from the thrill of openair motoring, and frankly, if you've got a car like this you'd have to have a very exhilira-

ting hobby to beat the sheer

choose to travel light.

My reservation? Like the

other great grand tourer launched last year, the Jaguar XKS. the SLK comes only with an automatic gearbox. Put it in "drive" and it changes gear with wonderful smoothness. speed and timing. If you want to be old-fashioned and experience the thrill of driving, it includes a second gate so the driver can use the car as a clutchless manual, although its staggered design takes a bit of getting used to.

ut it is also a "clever" automatic, that is to say it is programmed to learn the driver's style and make changes accordingly. Unfortunately this means that on the odd occasion it proves too clever by half, trying to read the driver's mind and changing up too soon. If you're heading round a flat-out corner this can seriously spoil your enjoyment; at best it's an irritation. at worst disconcerting.

But that is the only fault I could find. The engine is fine; its quality outstanding. its looks unlikely to date. It's a car to last a lifetime, and is well worth a two-year wait.

On the Silverstone route to safer driving

best company car driver is the chance to take part in the finals at Silverstone, writes Alan Copps.

The choice of a racing track might on the face of it seem at odds with the emphasis of our contest on skill rather than speed, but there is no denying the thrill of driving at the home of the British Grand Prix. And there are tests of skill that can be staged safely on the track which could not be attempted on the road.

Among the most exciting is the skid car, a Rover 416 mounted on hydraulically-controlled castors which can vary the grip of front and rear wheels to simulate different kinds of skid, without resort to the pools of water or detergent commonly used on skid

can take entrants well off the beaten track

pans. The point of this is that most drivers experience their first skid on the road and very few manage to meet the situation without either leaving the road or hitting another vehicle. There can be few more graphic reminders of that fact than the carnage left by the

M42 pile-ups earlier this week. With broad acres of asphalt available, a few pirouetttes across the Silverstone track under expert instruction can give a driver the confidence to deal with situations such as those

which found so many wanting. The Times-Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year competition is

ne of the great attractions of our search for Britain's best company driver

and those who want a bit of extra confidence to handle a high-powered

designed to find the safest and smoothest high-mileage working motorist in the country. It is also designed to raise awareness among company car drivers of their high accident rate and among fleet managers of the benefits of driver training, now one of the main activities at Silverstone through the work of the

Silverstone Driving Centre. Although this encompasses everything from learning to handle a singleseat racing car to driving on a loosesurfaced raily stage, one of the most popular courses is that which concentrates on road skills. It is especially attractive to both company motorists

family car.

In addition to a session with the fiendish skid-pan car - the controls can be adjusted by the instructor even while the car is in motion — this includes a high-speed lane changing exercise on one of the widest sections of track and up to three hours of detailed instruction in road conditions.

This is the package that awaits our 12 finalists, who first have to make it through demanding tests at regional heats. All you have to do to enter is raise a team of three drivers whose use of a car is included in their remuneration package and then gain the endorsement of your fleet manager. Just fill in the form below and you could win a day at Silverstone.



The Silverstone skid car: castors on the back wheels will test your control skills

THE TIMES Lease Plan 🗖 **Company** Car Driver 1997

Entry Form

THE TIMES Lease Plan 🗖 Company Car Driver 1997

About your company

Number of employees: ... Number of company cars:

Nominated drivers

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İ		Sumame	Forename	Job title	Age	Points on licence (mex 3)
l	1	l				
l	2					
l	3					
I	4	RESERVE				

Competition rules

The closing date for entires is March 28 1997. Drivers must be 24 years of age or over to enter. Only corporate entires will be accepted. Drivers must be nominate by the director or senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. Drivers must be nominated in teams of three. The entrant may also nominate himselfthers as part of the team. Companies can only enter one team. Competitors must drive a company car or vehicle as part of their remuneration package. Qualification for as part of the team. Companies can only enter one team. Competitors must drive a company car or vehicle as part of their remuneration package. Qualification for the team/company award will be dependent upon a written test to be completed by the entrant at that team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Plan, DriveTech, Nissan, News International and the Birkdate Group are not permitted to enter. In the sprit of the competition, competitors who reached the final in two previous consecutive years, specialist organisations such as driver training companies, police, the armed forces and the files are not permitted to enter. A place in the regional heats will be confirmed in writing at least ten days prior to the heat, in the evern of over-subscription, qualification to the regional heats will be judged through a random driver telephone questionnaire. If the team does not qualify the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the heat. Feetback on each driver's performance will be available after the competition. The reserve driver will be called upon at the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete in the event of a finalist not being able to compete in the final, the next highest scoring driver from the regional heats will be invited to compete in their place. The prize for the writine months. Cash alternatives are not available. The judge's decision is final.

•Which venue?

Please select your 1st and 2nd choice location/date of regional heat (indicate 1 or 2 in box):

Friday, 25 April Elstree, Herts Friday, 9 May Macclesfield, Cheshire Bracknell, Berks Friday, 16 May Friday, 30 May Nottingham

Friday, 13 June Coventry

Gatwick, Surrey

Friday, 6 June

You must ensure that entrant, and nominated drivers are able for both first and second choice dates and for the final at Silverstone on Friday, 4 July 1997, Initial qualification may be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

Once you have completed this form, fax it back to Lease Plan on 01753 620676 or post to Marketing Dept, Lease Plan, Thames Side, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1TY. For further information call Lease Plan on 01753 797284

100 15D

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS OFFER Improve your driving skills at Silverstone



Readers of The Times can hone their driving skills at the Silverstone Driving Centre for only £75, saving £24 off the normal price.

Among the driving techniques you learn on the course, which lasts four hours, is highspeed lane changing - the way you have to do it on a motorway - how to control the car in icy conditions and finesse driving, which means being in tune with your vehicle.

This year the Silverstone Driving Centre is hosting the finals of The Times Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year '97.

Road Skills courses are available most week days throughout the year.

For more information, please contact the booking line: 01327 857788 quoting The Times reader offer.

The offer lasts for



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Guess who made this for Le Mans

Kevin Eason reports

on a thoroughbred

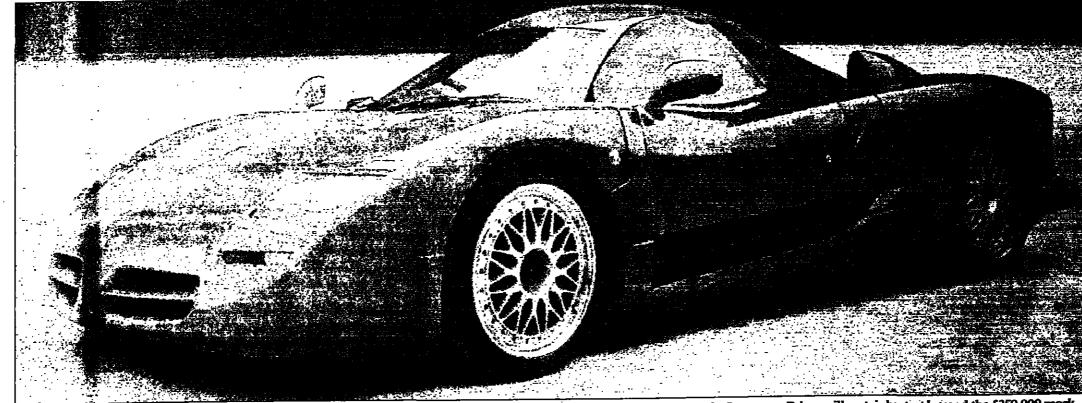
from an unlikely stable

efore the man in the hat contemplates trading in his little Sunny liaichback, he might want to know the price of this latest Nissan ... that's right, f wiid Nissan.

This extraordinary, ultra high-tech beauty if astonishingly from the same company that brought you the titchy Micra the repmobile Primera and the incredibly dull Sunny, the car with a daft name driven very slowly in the middle lane of the motorway by little men in

But Nissan has decided to go racing at this year's Le Mans 24-hour endurance event and has to make a road car to qualify. The result is a glorious machine which bears so little relation to Nissan's mainstream products, it is almost beyond

This is a car that looks like a Ferrari. drives like a Formula One racer and is a Nissan that even the snootiest car snob would die for. Strange, but true.



The R390 GTI: "perhaps the most exciting road car Nissan has ever produced" looks like a Ferrari and drives like a Formula One racer. Prices will certainly start beyond the £350,000 mark

Not that the chaps at Sunderland got anywhere near the R390 GTI: the car was hand-built by TWR, the company which makes Damon Hill's Arrows racing car and engineers the racing Volvos for the British Touring Car Championships. TWR has made the Le Mans racer for

Nissan and its engineers will produce the road car too.

That is road car in the singular, because Nissan has no need — nor any orders — to make more than one, which has to be homologated for road use to satisfy the racing authorities. Nissan must prove the

race car is based on a road-going model to enter the GT series.

Not that there are so many differences between them: the road car is a two-seater and clothed in a light, carbon fibre monocoque body which covers a 3.5-litre V8 with twin turbo-chargers, developed

by Nissan for this car, and mated up to a six-speed sequential racing gearbox. The all-round double wishbone suspension was developed exclusively for the R390.

With masterful understatement, Peter Slater, Nissan Europe's vice president: says that the R390 is "perhaps the most

exciting road car Nissan has ever produced". Perhaps? Try telling that to Sunny owners. Production begins later in the year and start saving now if you want the most glamorous 200mph Nissan ever made because prices will certainly start beyond the E350,000 mark.



Colin Barraclough in Geneva attends the most regal automobile auction



The 1971 Lamborghini Miura SVJ bought by Nicholas Cage

f Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi believed in any-L thing, he believed in excess. At one time, his car collection numbered 3,000. Virtually single-handed, he kept several major European manufacturers affoat with his demands for top-of-the-line performance cars with specific modifications.

But when the cars arrived, he lost interest: after nearly 20 years festering in a warehouse on the edge of Tehran, ten supercars formerly owned by the Shah of Iran were sold on Wednesday at auction in Geneva. Few had more than 5,000 miles on the clock.

It's not often that cars from a royal household go on sale, so it was not surprising to find a crowded saleroom at Geneva's Salon International d'Automobile. Telephone bidders included American screen star Nicholas Cage, who snapped up the star of the show, a 1971 Lamborghini Miura SVJ with only 2,000 miles on the clock, for a cool £280,000, more than twice the estimate. In total, the Shah's cars fetched £450,000. almost double the highest

estimate. The collection, sold by Brooks Europe, included a 1974 V12 Ferrari given to the Shah by King Hussein of Jordan, an Aston Martin V8

and several unusual Rolls-

Royces. The Shah fled Iran when the going got tough in 1979. Ayatollah Khomeini's new government seized the cars and they remained in secret store until they were hawked to an Arab businessman in

In Geneva, it was clear that. bidders were buying a slice of history. Peter Ratcliffe, a laidback Rolls-Royce enthusiast from Ascot, was typical. "Look. I'm just a guy who likes Rolls-Royces," he said, after buying the Shah's Corniche Convertible, complete with flashing police lights and flag masts. "I got a 27-year-old Rolls with probably the lowest mileage in the world and a unique royal history. I got the best buy of the show."

Nath,

Brussels

DR DASHBOARD

My best advice is that you lie down . . . on a couch

A bit of fog and the country grinds to a balt with all these multiple accidents. I cracked down the motorway, passing all those "nervous Nellies" in the inside lanes. Why can't people drive quickly in all

conditions? A The doctor hesitates to counter with such a simplistic answer, but could it be those "nervous Nellies", as you quaintly put it, were quite keen on staying alive? Let me ask what speed you were doing to overtake the Nelly people.

About the usual for the outside lane of the motorway, around 80mph, which is normal these days. isn't it?

A This surgery is a haven for the sick: you need a psychiatrist. You slow down in fog because you can't see, you daftie. When the fog is dense, even the light from your headlamps will be reflected. which means you must

Seems obvious, but you can normally see fog lamps ahead anyway,

A Can you? How do you know which are fog lamps and which are activated brake lights? Exactly. And on long trips, you might not be concentrating so hard because the blanket of fog will make you feel even more relaxed in your nice, warm car. So you need to be alert, curb your speed and concentrate hard on

All right. I get the drift. Anything else that can help?

Yes. Don't business to. low any lights in front. Yes. Don't blindly fol-The vehicle you are following could be ploughing off the road, so watch the lane markings. And for God's sake, take care - or next time I see you, it will be to put bones in plaster.



distance records. The engine, despite our best efforts,

remained undamaged

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